



SOCCER

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GST INCLUSIVE

★★ ABSW Special 1000th Issue Next Week – Don't Miss It! ★★



Brett Emerton: Australia's Olympic captain.

NO RISKS FOR BLANCO

**Concerned Olympic coach
ponders on injured trio**

By John Economos

Australia's Olympic training camp in Melbourne suffered a minor scare over the weekend when no less than three players, including the Australian Olympic captain Brett Emerton, sustained injuries in training sessions.

Australia's still most concerned Olympic coach Raul Blanco stated last night to ABSW from Melbourne: "Look, all three injuries appear to be relatively minor at this stage, but one can never be really sure.

"All three (injuries) at this stage don't look as if they are anything major, but nevertheless they are all concerning me," stressed the sceptical Blanco.

Possibly the injury disturbing Blanco the most is the one to his Australian Olympic captain and right midfielder Emerton, who has a strained quad muscle.

Lanky goalkeeper, Joe Didulica, also suffered a shin injury at training over the weekend. However a scan performed late yesterday morning on his leg proved thankfully, to be negative.

Midfielder Jason Culina is also

carrying a strain to a leg muscle.

All three players have been immediately rested from further training sessions till Blanco's medical staff clear them.

"These injuries have come too close to the big games and although they may be minor, they still greatly concern me," Blanco repeated.

At this stage all three players will not be risked by Blanco when the Australian Olympic side has a warm up match tonight (Tuesday) against Kuwait at Olympic Park.

**LUCK OF THE
IRISH WITH
THE DUTCH AS
ITALY PEGGED
BACK TWICE
BY HUNGARY**

By Vince Battiatto

The luck of the Irish was with the Dutch over the weekend as the European World Cup 2002 qualifiers got underway across the continent.

The Republic of Ireland had lead 2-0 early in the match in Amsterdam only for the Dutch to claw back for a 2-2 draw in new coach Louis van Gaal's first match in charge.

It was a similar story for the Italians who also had a coach in charge for the first time in Giovanni Trapattoni.

The Italians travelled to Budapest to face the Hungarians where they lead twice through strikes by Filippo Inzaghi and were pegged back twice by the home side.

In other matches, Germany continued caretaker coach Rudi Voeller's winning run with a 2-0 victory over Greece while Portugal kicked off their campaign with a 3-1 victory over Estonia and Spain needed a late goal to see off Bosnia 2-1.

For Full Details see pages 26 & 30



BLANCO CONCERNED
PAGE 3

THE GOOD OIL ...
PAGES 4-5

**GREEK-AUSTRALIAN
SPORTING HALL OF FAME**
PAGE 11

**STATE OF ORIGIN
QLD vs NSW**
PAGE 12

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Southern Districts raise \$4440 for Joe Watson Fund

On Saturday 26th August, 2000 Southern Districts Soccer Football Association held its annual Senior Presentation Night at Club Marconi, attended by 630 players and supporters.

Unfortunately this evening clashed with a fund-raising event at Club Marconi the same day to raise funds for Joe Watson, diagnosed with Liver Cancer and the Soccer Community had gathered to assist this cause.

With only two week's notice the Southern Districts committee approached their local junior clubs and some businesses to donate prizes for a monster raffle to be held at the

presentation night.

The generosity of these junior clubs and businesses together with the persons at the presentation night enabled Southern Districts to donate the sum of \$4,440 to the Joe Watson fund raising committee.

A highlight of the evening was a rousing speech from former Australian coach and soon to carry the torch legend, Rale Rasic, who kindly donated his time for this cause.

This marvelous effort only goes to show what can be done by the Soccer Community when they unite for a common cause.



KARDINIA PARK DOESN'T MAKE OLYMPIC GRADE

Geelong's Shell stadium has been judged unfit for Olympic soccer and will miss out on either match against Kuwait or South Africa.

Olyroos coach Raul Blanco said the ground's surface was too "uneven" for soccer.

Also known as Kardinia Park, the stadium is home to the Geelong Football Club and surfaces for Australian Rules

football can be less smooth than required for soccer.

"I liked the stadium and the facilities. But the ground was a little too uneven for soccer," Blanco said.

"It might be alright for Australian Rules, where the ball is played a lot in the air, but in soccer it is mainly played along the ground," he said.



Raul Blanco: Not happy.

STERJOVSKI JOINS LILLE

French first division side Lille have offered a one-year deal to Australian striker Mile Sterjovski, who impressed while on trial with them earlier this month.

Sterjovski will be loaned to Lille by his Australian club Parramatta Power with the option of a permanent transfer at the end of the season, the French club said last week.



Mile Sterjovski: Off to France.

Arnold calls for Aussie FA CUP

Northern Spirit coach Graham Arnold has called on Soccer Australia to be more proactive in future years and stage an FA Cup style pre-season competition.

Newcastle Breakers coach Lee Sterrey earlier this year identified the need for a pre-season tournament and organised the four-team three-round Newcastle Breakers Challenge with Northern Spirit, Sydney Olympic, Marconi Stallions and the Breakers competing.

Arnold told ABSW on Sunday night after completing 180 minutes of football in two days, had only two hours sleep and a long flight across the Tasman that the Breakers Challenge was a great concept but believes Soccer Australia should be the ones organising the pre-season competition.

"I think it's a pity that the club (Newcastle Breakers) has got to do it and Soccer Australia don't do a pre-season tournament," Arnold said.

"There could an FA Cup style tourna-

ment which includes state league teams before the NSL starts.

"But Lee (Sterrey) has come up with a good idea here, they're good games and it has given the four teams good preparation."



Graham Arnold: Pre-season tournament is needed.

ABSW Player Poll COMING SOON!

THANKS, BUT NO THANKS

Moved Okon reluctantly turns down Australia's Gesture

By John Economos

Soccer Australia last week extended a most considerate invitation to the injured national senior captain Paul Okon to fly him out from England to Sydney to be a spectator at the Olympic Games whilst he's recovering from his broken foot.

The luckless Okon was bitterly disappointed at having to miss playing for Raul Blanco's team in the Olympics, after breaking a bone in his foot in the match against Leeds United two weeks ago.

With a rare, (if not unique) gesture, Soccer Australia extended the most disappointed Okon a two week holiday to come out and watch the Olympics, including the Australian Soccer team in



Mark Schwarzer:
Fellow Aussie at
Middlesbrough.

Melbourne as well as in Sydney.

However Okon although moved by the very considerate gesture, reluctantly turned the offer down.

"I appreciated the ges-

ture but it would be much worse watching the Games after having been ruled by injury," the senior Australian captain stated.

"Ever since Sydney was chosen to host the Games, I had been looking forward to them, but as a professional, you have to accept these things (injury)," he stated to the media.

Meanwhile Australia's Olympic coach Raul Blanco, although lamenting at having lost the services and thrust of the talented Okon, stated: "It would have been nice to have Paul over as our guest."

"He is such a magnificent player and of excellent character."

Okon who signed for England Premier League side Middlesbrough, following his free transfer from Fiorentina in Italy, has this season joined up with fellow Australian international goalkeeper, Mark Schwarzer.

The broken foot is now expected to keep Okon out of action for anything up to six weeks.

Competition in Middlesbrough's mid-field includes names such as France's World Cup winner Christian Karembeu plus England international hard-man Paul Ince. The competition is most fierce to say the least.



Paul Okon Turns down Australia's kind invitation.



Raul Blanco: Australia's Olympic coach.

REGIONAL SOCCER DEVELOPMENT COACH — CENTRAL COAST

Applications are sought from suitably qualified soccer development coaches for the above position based on the Central Coast.

Applicants should be experienced in coach, athlete and schools development, from the grass roots through to elite levels and hold a minimum qualification of Senior Licence (ACC level 2).

The position is contracted through to January 2002, after an initial 3 months probationary period.

Applications should be forwarded by
September 22, 2000 to:

Mr Chris White
General Manager

NSWASF

PO Box 6073

BAULKHAM HILLS BUSINESS CENTRE
NSW 2153

Enquiries, including requests for job description/selection criteria can be addressed to the above on 9629 2833.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SOCCER FOOTBALL CLUB

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For our NSW Soccer Federation Division 1 squad. Please contact Simon Philips on 9210 4077 or 0413 585 413 for information about applications.

We would also like to invite any interested players to attend selection trials for our U21 and U18 teams which will take place at:

10am on 2, 9 and 16 December 2000

St John's College Oval, Sydney University
(entry off Missenden Road)

For more details please contact Ben Docker on
9552 6429

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BREAKERS STILL ALIVE

BY JOHN ECONOMOS.

THE NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE late yesterday fired out a communique on behalf of Soccer Australia, confirming that Mr David Hall is still acknowledged as being the financial controller of the Breakers for the new season in the National Soccer League.

The official statement released by the NSL, states:

"As a result of the due diligence conducted by Soccer Australia of materials provided by Mr David Hall, Soccer Australia has come to the view that Mr Hall is in control of the Newcastle Breakers S.C."

"Soccer Australia has notified Mr Hall of the decision and has imposed certain conditions relating to the Club's entry for the 2000-2001 National Soccer League season."

"These conditions are an internal matter between Soccer Australia and Mr Hall."

However it's understood that certain matters are still strongly being viewed by Soccer Australia as being 'grey', especially in the area concerning players' Superannuation payments which are believed to be in arrears to the tune of some



Stefan Kamasz:
GM of NSL

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ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
P.O. BOX 253, DOONSIDE NSW 2767
Tel: 9624 3344 Fax: 9674 3057



BDSFA

Email: bdsfa@bdsfa.com

Director of Coaching: Mr Barry DAVIS Mob: 0407 072 735

Invites Players for the 2001 Representative teams to Trial

All Age men & U/18 male will be posted here when announced

ALL TRIALS:

Venue: BERT SAUNDERS Reserve
KIATA Crescent, (Off KILDARE RD), Next to Featherdale DOONSIDE

ALL AGE PREMIER

• Tues 10th October 7.00pm • Tues 17th October 7.00pm • Tues 24th October 7.00pm

JUNIOR LEAGUE

UNDER 11s		UNDER 12s	
Wed 6th Sept	6.30pm	Tues 5th Sept	6.30pm
Fri 8th Sept	6.30pm	Fri 8th Sept	6.30pm

YOUTH LEAGUE

UNDER 13s		UNDER 14s	
Tues 5th Sept	6.00pm	Thurs 7th Sept	6.00pm
THEN		THEN	
Tues 3rd Oct	6.00pm	Wed 4th Oct	6.00pm
Thurs 5th Oct	6.00pm	Fri 6th Oct	6.00pm
Tues 10th Oct	6.00pm	Wed 11th Oct	6.00pm
Thurs 12th Oct	6.00pm	Fri 13th Oct	6.00pm

UNDER 15s

UNDER 16s

Thurs 7th Sept	7.30pm	Tues 5th Sept	7.30pm
THEN		Thurs 7th Sept	7.30pm
Tues 3rd Oct	7.30pm	THEN	
Thurs 5th Oct	7.30pm	Wed 4th Oct	7.30pm
Tues 10th Oct	7.30pm	Fri 6th Oct	7.30pm
		Wed 11th Oct	7.30pm

UNDER 14 & 16 Girls, Ladies - To select train on Squad in each age group

• Wed 6th Sept 6.30pm

To finalise each squad:

• Wed 4th October - 6.30pm • Wed 11th October - 6.30pm • Wed 18th October - 6.30pm

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

SYDNEY UNITED for this coming season, has discarded the tag of being known as the 'Sydney United Pumas'.

United now has a deal with Italian sporting goods Company, LOTTO, and thus the reason the term 'Puma' had to go.

The 'Pumas' nickname had come about with the previous sponsorship deal with Puma clothing.

JOSIP SKOKO who last Wednesday was selected to replace the injured Paul Okon in the Australian Olympic team as the third Over-age (over 23) player, will not arrive in Melbourne till Thursday.

The razor-sharp Skoko, currently playing with Belgium club Genk, which toured England to play a friendly against Coventry City last Thursday, is now

organisers that produced and staged the 'Joe Watson Fundraising' project.

With their mate Joey Watson lying in hospital for the past four weeks fighting for his life, the 'A-Team' rapidly got stuck into some heavy organisational work setting up a Trivia Night, auctions, a cocktail party at the Hakoah Club, Soccer games at Marconi Stadium, a huge dinner-auction at Club Marconi.

The A-team led by Alex Robertson, included Tony Pezzano, Kenny Schembri, Brian Brown, Tommy Morrow, Mick Hanratty and Barry Walker, over the past six weeks, worked its butt off.

Five special events were organised right across Sydney, with the last to be a real 'Family Day' at Jellicoe Park, Pagewood on Sunday September 10th.

There will be jumping castles and a large BBQ for the kids plus three games will be played.

The first game will be 'Scotland vs Australia' start-



THE AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC TEAM's hotel, the Hilton On The Park in East Melbourne, was last Sunday 'swept cleaned' by none other than the Australian army, would you believe?

The army methodically moved in and meticulously scanned and searched every floor from top to bottom with their security devices.

Now all floors of the hotel where the Australian team is housed have been sealed off and will remain that way till after the Australian Olympic team departs for the Olympic Village in Sydney on September 14th.

Nobody without official accreditation passes can enter or leave the floors of the building.

The security blanket for the Australian team extends out to the daily training sessions.

When the squad moves in and out of the Hilton hotel for training sessions, it does so only under a Police escort.

There's even an undercover man on the team's 'Reg Varney'.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC on Sunday September 17th, will play a charity match against

Canterbury Marrickville at Lambert Park on Marion Street, Leichhardt, to raise urgently needed funds for a 16-year-old athlete that earlier this year suffered a serious injury.

The young Novocastrian gymnast, sustained an horri-

paralegic.

With most Sydney grounds out-of-action, (either through undergoing re-turfing or booked out by S.O.C.O.G. as training venues for the Olympics), this chairy match will be played at Lambert Park on Marion street at Leichhardt.

Again, the match Sydney Olympic vs Canterbury Marrickville will be played Sunday, September 17th, at 4pm.

Please make the effort to BE THERE.

IN A FOUR TEAM PRE-SEASON TOURNAMENT staged by the Newcastle Breakers in Newcastle, in Round 1, the Breakers last Friday night drew 0-0 with Marconi.

In the other match of the double header, Sydney Olympic defeated a severely depleted Northern Spirit 2-1.

The Spirit's largely First XI was missing as it was over in New Zealand for a friendly against Auckland.

Scorers for Olympic were Lindsay Wilson and Nick Carle whilst the Spirit's sole goal came from Daniel Watkins.



Daniel Watkins: Spirit's sole goalscorer in Tournament.

Last Sunday in Round 2, Marconi played a scoreless draw with the Northern Spirit whilst Newcastle



Eddie Thomson: In Korea to spy for Raul Blanco.

Northern Spirit. Thursday night's match times are set at 6pm and 8pm.

Current Ladder After Two Rounds:
Sydney Olympic 4 points.
Newcastle 2 points.
Marconi 2 points.
Northern Spirit 1 point.

THE NSL to be restructured at the end of this coming new season, will see the League shrink by at least four teams to a more compact 12 sided competition.

Already Carlton and the Canberra Cosmos have been



Stefan Kamasz: The League's General manager.

put on notice by Soccer Australia.

HAYDEN FOXE, Australia's brilliant Olympic sweeper, last Friday failed at his second attempt to gain his British work-permit to enable him to play with West Ham United.

The magnificent, intelligent lateral defender has already signed a four year contract with the 'Hammers'.

EDDIE THOMSON, (as reported on Page 1 of last week's ABSW), flew to Korea on a secret spying mission for Australia's Olympic coach Raul Blanco. The eagle-eyed Thomson meticulously studied the Olympic warm-up game between South Korea and current Olympic Gold medallists Nigeria. After the Koreans hit the lead, the Nigerians panicked and foolishly embarked on an all out attack strategy that allowed the Asians to cane them with counter-attacking Soccer and ultimately smack the Olympic champions by an insulting 5-1 scoreline.

Was this a fluke by the Koreans?

No way. Two days later the same teams faced up to one another and guess what?



Hayden Foxe: Second failure to secure precious work-permit.



Francis Awaritefe: In his new Sydney United strip.

A new nickname is to be launched prior to the new League season starting.

In other news from Sydney United, newly appointed coach Alan Hunter, did not sign mobile wide midfielder Danny Townsend.

Due to work commitments, Townsend found it impossible to find the time to train five nights per week.

Hunter has already appointed midfielder Aytec Genc to act as the Club's senior captain.

United's NSL squad from this week will be training at Stanwell Park.

SOUTH MELBOURNE will present their 2000 Season Launch and Player Guernsey Night on Saturday October 7th, 2000.

The venue will be 'Albert By the Lake', Bob Jane Stadium, 25 Albert Road Drive, Albert Park.



Paul Trimboli: South Melbourne's mercurial captain.

Tickets cost \$50 per person and may be booked by contacting the Club's office on 03-9645 9797. Pre Dinner drinks served at 7pm.



Josip Skoko: In Australia's Olympic squad of 18.

expected to arrive in Melbourne either tomorrow (Wednesday) or Thursday at the latest.

The Australian Olympic team tonight (Tuesday) plays a warm-up match against Kuwait at Olympic Park.

SPECIAL MENTION must once again be made of the team of fabulous

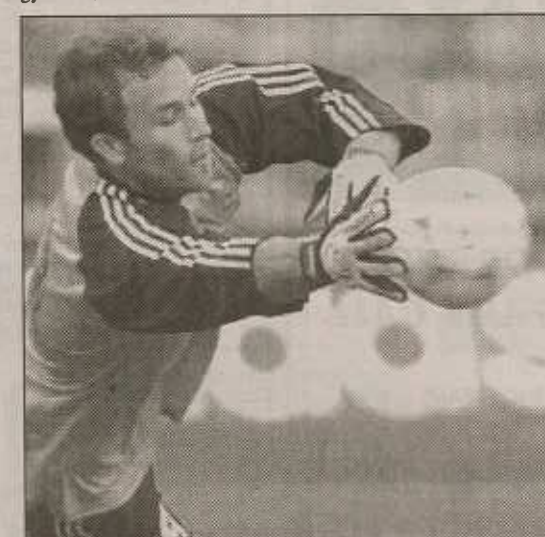
ing at noon, followed by 'Rangers vs Celtic' and then 'Liverpool vs Everton'.

Robertson's 'A-Team' has shown unyielding tenacity, super efficiency and extreme diligence in their task to urgently help their treasured mate, Joe Watson.

Maybe Robbo's 'A-Team' should be running Australian Soccer while they're at it.



Alex Robertson: Former international sweeper.



Clint Bolton: Sydney Olympic's new goalkeeper.

ic injury whilst at training last April.

The teenager fell awkwardly whilst coming off the 'bars' and most unfortunately suffered a very serious injury that has left him a

(Masi 26th) drew 1-1 with Sydney Olympic (by trialist Alilovic 67th).

In the last Round (3) to be played this Thursday night, Marconi will play Sydney Olympic whilst Newcastle will face the

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

South Korea 5 Nigeria 1.

●●●●●
AUSTRALIA's Olympic team will play a second warm up match this Thursday night at the Bob Jane Stadium against South Africa.

However Australia's Olympic coach Raul Blanco, was last night most emphatic to 'Good Oil' that he would not be using either ace-striker Mark Viduka or tenacious midfielder Josip Skoko in this match.

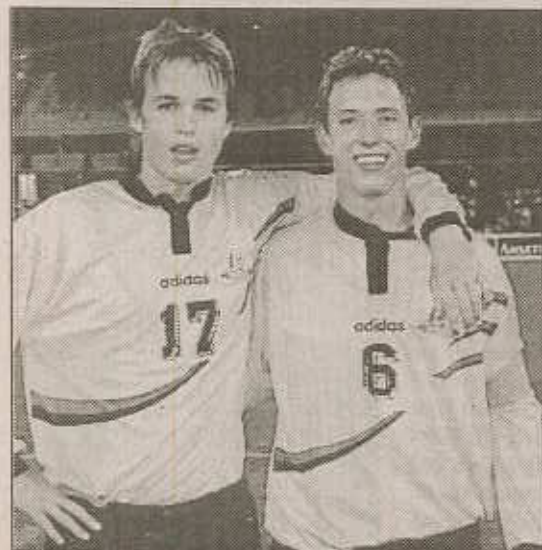


Mark Viduka: Will not play against South Africa.

Blanco stated last night: "Mark has been held back by Leeds United to play against Manchester City tomorrow (Tuesday-today) and Josip will also have a League match the same day for his Belgian club Genk. So after travelling more than 25 hours to get here in Melbourne, plus the time difference, it would be most foolish to risk them at all in the warm up match against the South Africans.

"I initially had hoped that both would've been here by now," lamented Blanco.

●●●●●
THE PARRAMATTA POWER, currently



Mark Byrnes (on the right): Injured in Vietnam sent back to Australia.

touring Vietnam, last Sunday, won the four team Tournament by defeating the Select side Ho Chi Min City by 2-1.

In the tournament played in Ho Chi Min City, the Power had drawn the first match and won the second to scramble into the semi finals.

The Power's first match was against tournament favourites Korea, played in hot temperatures that reached 31 degrees.

The Power surged to a great start when midfielder

The Vietnamese were frustrated by some great saves from the Power's newly signed goalkeeper Les Pogliacomi in the second session. Hamilton Thorp scored his second goal of the tournament with just five minutes left from fulltime.

The prevailing severe heat left many of the Power players almost dehydrated. Coach David Mitchell at halftime was forced to replace Matthew Thompson and Joel Griffiths who had collapsed with heat exhaustion.

The Power achieved their glory in Asia without their stars Jacob Buins and Mile Sterjovski who have signed contracts in England (Leeds United) and France (Lille) respectively.

●●●●●
MARCONI has accepted an invitation to play a pre-season exhibition match in Cairns on Saturday September 30th against John Kosmina's Brisbane Strikers.

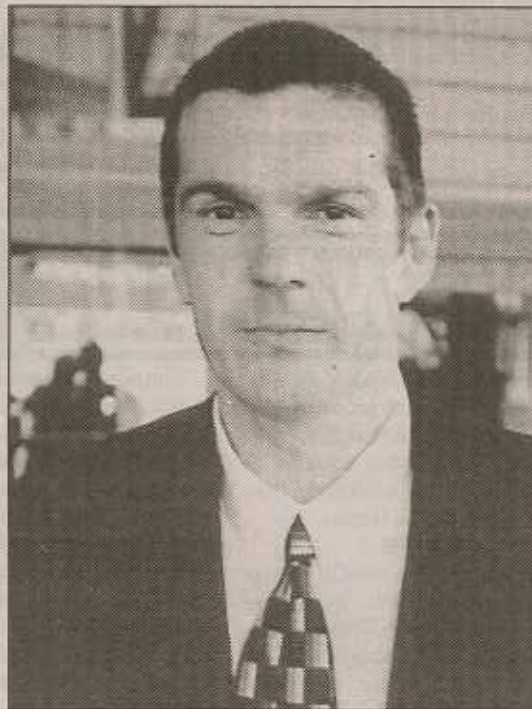
The match will be played



By John Economos



John Kosmina: Coach of the Brisbane Strikers.



Jeff Hopkins: Coach of The Eastern Pride.

at the Cazaly's Sports Centre, Cairns.

Kick off has been set down for 7 pm.

●●●●●
THE FOUR VICTORIAN BASED NSL clubs will kick off the '2000 Tynan-Eyre Cup' competition this Sunday with double headers at the Kingston Heath Soccer Complex.

First match at 2 pm will be South Melbourne vs Carlton with the late game (4 pm) being Eastern pride vs the Melbourne Knights.

On Saturday 16th September, Round 2 of the round robin tournament will see South Melbourne clash with the Eastern Pride at 2pm whilst the late match (4pm) will see Carlton face up against the Melbourne Knights.

Round 2 will be played at the Green Gully Reserve.

Round 3 has been set

down for Sunday 24th at the Knights Stadium while the last Round(4) will be played on Friday night 29th September at the Veneto Club-Bulleen.

●●●●●

A mobile striker who creates chances with his reported excellent technique, Kallon is a strong and clinical finisher. Krncevic is hopeful the African will be in Sydney this week for urgent trials.

their hotel Hilton On The Park in East Melbourne, presented executives from their major sponsor, 'LG' with team souvenirs.

One such gift was an Australian Olympic track-suit, as a show of apprecia-



●●●●●
LAST SUNDAY night, the high spirited Australian Olympic team at

tion for the strong sponsoring support shown to the squad by the Korean-based 'LG'.

WOMEN'S SOCCER COORDINATOR

Applications are invited for the part-time position of Women's Soccer Coordinator with the

NSW Amateur Soccer Federation.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate experience in schools development programs and/or conducting skill clinics, have experience in working for/with soccer clubs or Associations, must hold an NCAS level 2 accreditation, excellent organisation, time management, planning and communication skills and a working knowledge of both the schools and soccer systems in NSW.

Applications should be sent by 22nd September 2000, to

Mr Chris White
General Manager
NSWASF
PO Box 6073
BAULKHAM HILLS
BUSINESS CENTRE NSW 2153

Enquiries, including requests for job description/selection criteria can be addressed to the above on 9629 2833.



Bankstown City Cubs

Super Youth & Super Cadet League Trials

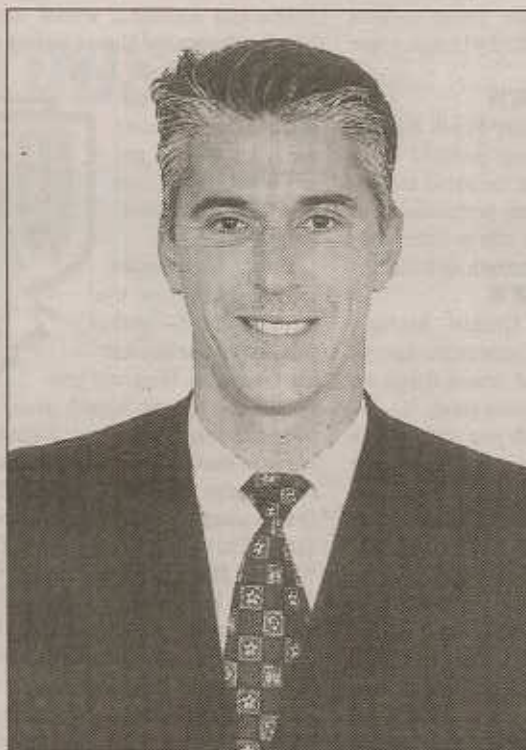
Bankstown City Cubs, a joint venture between Bankstown Amateur Soccer Association and Bankstown City Lions Soccer Club, will be holding trials for season 2001 as follows:

Trials Dates:

Under 14, 15 & 17 Sept 12 & 14
Under 11, 12 & 13 Sept 13 & 15

All trials will be held at
O'NEILL PARK
YAGOONA
commencing at 5.00pm

Enquiries: Phone 9600 6261



Eddie Krncevic: Expects African international striker for trials.

OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

MELTA ANNOINTS TOBIN AS SUCCESSOR

Barring serious injury, Australia's most capped international, Alex Tobin, should snare another remarkable career milestone this coming season.

Tobin, 34, is just nine games short of Sergio Melta's all-time NSL appearance record of 445 matches, all played with Adelaide City Force.

The big man, like Melta, also has been a one-club man, but all that will change this season when Tobin turns out for Parramatta Power.

Melta's reaction to the pending loss of his longevity record to his former team-mate, was typically generous.

"Good on him," Melta said. "Alex has been a great ambassador for the game and if someone had to beat it (the record), he would be the person I would have liked to be the first."

"Alex has had to take a lot of things on the chin this year, and the way he's handled the situation just goes to show what a great man he is."

"He just gets up and keeps going, and knowing Alex, he'll probably keep playing for another couple of seasons."

"By the time he's finished, he'll probably top the 500-game mark, said Melta, who is assistant coach to Force NSL supremo Zoran Matic.

Apart from holding the record for the most A international appearances for Australia (114), Tobin

also has amassed the most number of NSL finals appearances (38), eclipsing the 32 games played by his former central defensive partner, Milan Ivanovic.

NSL APPEARANCE FRONT RUNNERS — Sergio Melta 445; Alex Tobin 436; Mike O'Shea 406; Theo Selemedis 393; Gary Phillips 377; Paul Trimboli 372; Robbie Hooker 359.

EAGLES TEST GLORY

SA Premier League champions Blue Eagles took on the mighty Perth Glory and emerged with a meritorious 1-1 draw at Adelaide's Marden Complex on Wednesday night.

The Blues, who are more than interested in joining an NSL second division should it materialise, strengthened their resolve towards that concept with this surprising round robin tournament result.

Perth took the wraps off prized recruits, Damian Mori and Brad Maloney and it was the latter who shoved his new team into the lead.

Michael Brooks, no stranger to NSL action, raised eyebrows with a magnificent angled shot past Jason Petkovic for the equaliser.

Adelaide City snatched the lead in the late game against Carlton through a 25th minute Nick Sabljak free kick.

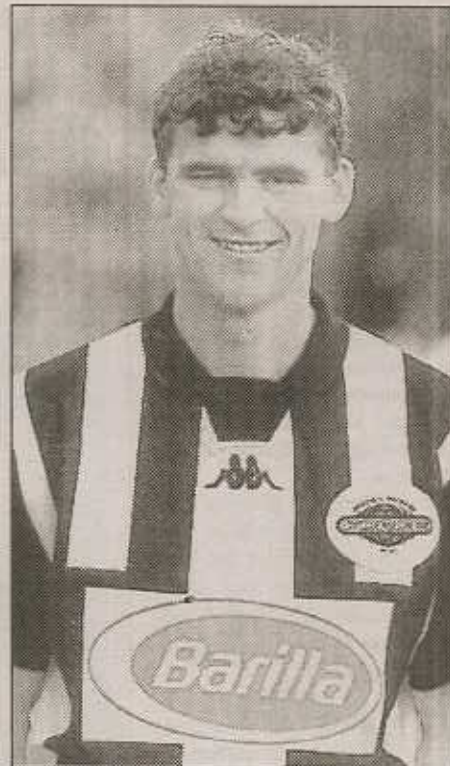
Carlton levelled 10 minutes before half time when Ange Motsiopoulos scored and Craig Lewis grabbed the winner for the visitor in the 70th minute.

LESS OF MORI

Damian Mori probably did not appreciate his new coach Bernd Stange's description of his trimmed appearance since the sharpshooter joined the full time professional set-up at Perth Glory.

"You will be surprised how Damian looks," Stange said before his team arrived in Adelaide for the pre-season friendly joust with Adelaide Force, Carlton and Blue Eagles.

"He (Mori) came to us in very good physical con-



Alex Tobin: Another milestone beckons.

dition, but he has lost weight and looks even fitter. He is slim, like a young lady."

We know what you mean, Bernd, let's hope "Frogger" does as well!

FOOT IN TWO CAMPS

Former Adelaide Sharks midfielder Cory Artone had a foot in two camps last week when he trained with Carlton every morning while the Blues were in Adelaide, but played for his Premier League

club Blue Eagles during the aforementioned Fairmont Homes Trials Cup series.

The elegant playmaker had earlier had two trial matches with the Melbourne Knights and a couple of practice games with Carlton whilst he was in Melbourne.

Artone was surprised to see 16-year-old Mario Karlovic of Raiders also trialling with Carlton, along with new signing Robbie Middleby.

"I was very impressed with Carlton's training facilities at Latrobe University," Artone said.

NEW SA COACHING DUO

Ex-Campbelltown Red Devils coach, John Evans and former West Adelaide defender Brenton Hiern have been appointed as interim senior State team coaches to succeed Zoran Maricic.

The latter has left the job to accept the coaching role at West Torrens Birkalla, the club he previously coached for five seasons.

Evans and Hiern will guide the SA squad in training matches against visiting Olympic teams.

Meanwhile, victorious Cumberland Foxes coach David Leane, who led United to the 1999 Premier League championship, has stepped down from the position after seven successive seasons.

Leane, a former Adelaide City striker, has been replaced at Bailey Reserve by assistant coach Richard Preston.

Allan Crisp can be heard on the 5RPH (1197) Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7.30am-9am, along with former Australian international John Perin, Channel 10 presenter Robbie Popplestone and Australian and British Soccer Weekly editor Vince Battiatto.

By Otto Bader

WOLLONGONG NEWS

Wolves Newcomer - talking to General Manager Graeme Haney, talented young goalkeeper Grant Barlow, formerly with Canberra Cosmos has signed a two year contract with the Wolves.

Coach Ron Corry now has two quality keepers available including giant goalkeeper Daniel Beltrame - last year's standby keeper. The two will compete for the first choice custodian. Both are in training and their form will be tested in coming trial games.

Attending one of the four weekly training sessions, not counting the occasional weekend session on Saturday or Sunday mornings, a total of 20 players were running hard under the guidance of former Scottish professional Stuart Beedie, a man well aware with top class soccer and its demands.

Several new boys were swelling the ranks, looking for a contract.



Dino Mennillo: Back at Brandon Park for now.

Head coach Ron Corry according to the club is still interested in two or three State League players to add depth to his squad. Midfield schemer Dino Mennillo has returned from Europe and is back in training with the Wolves, which will be well received by the fans who took a liking to his ability to produce top football last season.

However he could still be offered a contract overseas but at the moment he is back at Brandon Park. Question is how long will the Wolves be allowed to train at Brandon Park with all the politics involved to move their games to WIN Stadium to keep that Rugby League venue alive.

Local product striker Frank Barila - a skilful player with potential - was observed training with the squad and one can only hope he has the professional attitude to succeed, he is able to score goals and would be a real strength up front.

Marketing - General Manager Graeme Haney announced that the sale of VIP Boxes and Season tickets are well on the way and going good.

Make sure you grab your seat at WIN Stadium quickly. There are 50 corporate boxes available and plenty of Grand Stand seating. Sales are brisk and will be advertised locally. Contact the office on 02 4226 3988 during business hours and talk to Sue to ensure your booking.

CAPTAIN HORSLEY - THAT'S WHAT THE PRE-SCHOOLERS of Kangaroo Kidz in Mangerton, Wollongong, called the Wolves captain at a specially arranged visit the other day. It was inspired by the dedication of young soccer fanatic Bradley Moreira (3), a

Kangaroo regular who attends every home game of the Wolves with his parents and even away matches. Although the pint sized fan confessed that actually his favourite player is midfielder Dino Mennillo next to captain Horsley.

Illawarra Soccer - in the ICU Premier League play-off finals Wollongong Olympic defeated Western Suburbs in dramatic circumstances 4-2 in extra time.

Olympic took the lead with Steve Krishna and it took West well into the second half before replacement Don Martinovski equalised, several minutes later they hammered home a second goal with defender David Cuda

successful but got carried away in celebrating taking his shirt off and was booked, his second booking and subsequently send off.

This turned the match around and Olympic used the extra man to equalise with one minute left, forcing extra time. West was pressured and Olympic scored goals with Christian Zelvis and Richard Lloyd to march on for a Grand Final confrontation with Port Kembla. In Youth Grade Lysaghts won also in extra time 3-2 against Tarrawanna and in Reserve Grade West beat Port Kembla 2-0.

In the ICU CONFERENCE league Grand Final at Balls Paddocks, Bulli, underdogs Helensburgh came from behind to beat fancied Balgownie 3-2 in extra time. Balgownie started well taking the lead 2-0 with goals from Tom McCulloch, a former Socceroo and Marconi player, and Josh Faulks, still leading well into the second half.



With about 15 minutes to go Balgownie gave a rather uncalled free-kick away by questioned the referee's decisions and paid the price when Helensburgh's Nick Reily hit a top shot into the lower corner of the goal which lifted the side to even greater efforts and they equalised when Dean Heffernan equalised with a long-range shot shortly before the final whistle.

Another great shot from the same player decided the match when his shot flew into the roof of the net for the "golden goal" and Grand Final win. The Reserve Grade Grand Final saw Balgownie successful 2-1 against Helensburgh and in Youth Grade Dapto was the winner 1-0 against Highlands.

ICU PREMIER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL - will be played this year at Crehan Park, Cringila, due to number crunching preventing soccer to play at Brandon Park, the home of local soccer for years.

The Rugby League used their numbers to take Brandon Park for their local Grand Final on the day with the Sports Ground Trust pushing soccer off their original venue.

For the Cringila club it will be a great boost and more than 4000 spectators are expected. Soccer Illawarra will provide value for money on Sunday's Grand Final with plenty of entertainment like skydivers, brass band, dancing groups and more surprises. The main match will be Port Kembla against Wollongong Olympic, in Reserve grade West versus Olympic and in Youth grade West versus Lysaghts.

COACH ADRIAN ALSTON - has been in charge of minor premier Port Kembla for eight seasons and has taken his team into four of the last five Grand Finals, winning three of them.

OLYMPIC COACH JOHN FREW took over Olympic this year and has done a marvellous job bringing two of his grades into the Grand Final.

SECRETARY PORT KEMBLA **FRANK GIGLIOTTI** - has been with the club for over 15 years ever since brother Emilio "talked" him into joining he has been secretary for over 14 years, knowing the ins and outs of soccer administration only too well, reflecting in the club's success story.

JUNIOR SOCCER completes the season with the individual grade minor premiers playing their Grand Finals from the U/10's to the U/18's at the beautiful Kiama Leisure Centre on three fields. Games are played all day long.



Adrian Alston: For grand finals in five years.

Group of death will test understrength Olympic team

OLYMPIC BATTLE BECKONS

The losses of Leeds United striker Harry Kewell and Middlesbrough playmaker Paul Okon through injuries are serious setbacks to the Olyroos, who face stiff opposition in their group A phase, Victorian editor Bert van Bedaf reports.

The Olyroos have the job well and truly in front of them with the withdrawal of two of its major stars.

Harry Kewell, who had not played for Leeds for several months, because of a longstanding injury to his Achilles tendon, was forced to cancel his appearances with less than three weeks to go before Australia's opening match against Italy at the MCG on September 13.

Socceroo captain Paul Okon withdrew a day later when he broke a bone in his foot while playing against Leeds in the English Premier League.

"This is a major blow," Olyroos coach Raul Blanco commented at the Olyroos' Melbourne training camp at Xavier College, Kew. "With Kewell and Okon, we've lost two very important players in such a short period."

The absence of Kewell brought former Northern Spirit striker Clayton Zane (now with club Molde in Norway) into the squad, having previously been put on standby, while the Okon position immediately sparked speculation that Ned Zelic would make a return to Australian representation.

Zelic, whose miraculous goal against Holland qualified the Olyroos for the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, turned his back on the Socceroos last November after losing out on the captaincy when coach Frank



Harry Kewell: Big loss.

Farina opted for Okon.

Zelic departed the Socceroos training camp and vowed never to return, informing Soccer Australia by facsimile he intended "to retire from the Australian senior national team".

At the time of Zelic's dramatic exit, Socceroos coach Frank Farina expressed his disappointment while leaving the door open for a return.

"I offered Ned an open door policy to discuss the issue if he had any problems with it. Unfortunately, he chose not to discuss the matter with me, but just left the camp, which I find disappointing and

regrettable, not only for myself, but for Ned and the entire squad. On the question of Ned making himself available for Australia again, that again is a question only the player can answer," Farina said.

Blanco met similar disappointment.

"Ned is a strong-minded person. When he tells you he doesn't want to play in the Olympics, for me, that's good enough," the Olyroos coach said, as he struck Zelic off the list.

It quickly brought another Socceroo and Victorian talent into the picture. From Geelong, Josip Skoko, who now plays for Belgian club Racing Genk, who has been since confirmed as Okon's replacement.

This stills leaves Blanco with an adjustment at sweeper, where Okon would have been the defensive general with the additional assignment of directing the attack into central midfield.

Apart from Zane to fill Kewell's role aside Australia's main striker and former Melbourne Knights player Mark Viduka, another two Victorians are vying to step into Kewell's boots.

Viduka, now also co-striker with Kewell at Leeds after leaving Glasgow Celtic before the start of the English season, will have to carry the major Olympic responsibility of scoring goals to steer the home side into medal contention.

But former rival striker Michael Curcija, when playing at South Melbourne, is staking his claim to slot in the forward line to team up with the celebrated V-Bomber.

Now with Partizan Belgrade in Yugoslavia, Curcija is optimistic about his chances. "I'm happy to have made the squad, but with two strikers up front I def-



Paul Okon: Last minute withdrawal through injury.

initely consider myself in the picture," he said.

Carlton striker Archie Thompson is another candidate. The live-wire forward wasn't even called up but became a late inclusion as a standby.

"I'm just going to give it 110 per cent at every training session. It's a fantastic honour just to represent Australia," Thompson said.

Blanco's players are almost fully gathered at Xavier and a couple of practice matches have revealed some deficiencies.

The U23s team, with the addition of several VIS players, beat a Victorian Institute of Sport selection 6-0 in a training match. But much to Blanco's annoyance, it lost 2-0 to the Melbourne Knights, who are in full flight preparing themselves for the coming NSL season in October.

Standby defender Dragi Nastevski lined up against his Knights team-mates for the Olyroos.

Blanco remains confident he can still form a strong Australian team, capable of making sure of at least second place in the "Group of Death" against favourite Italy, Olympic title holder Nigeria and Central American champion Honduras.

The Italians come with a formidable team. Its players are battle hardened in the country's top flight Serie A competition. Two midfielders,

Massimo Ambrosini (AC Milan) and Gianluca Zambrotta (Juventus) featured in Italy's Euro 2000 squad.

"We'll have to rethink (our formation) and re-adjust, because we've lost some exceptional players. It's unfortunate that this has happened, but we must look at the positive side and believe in the players that are available," he said.

Olyroos captain Brett Emerton, who arrived from Dutch team Feyenoord Rotterdam, together with Steve Laybutt, admitted the losses were devastating but not insurmountable.

"We've lost two great players in Harry Kewell and Paul Okon. But I can't see why we can't go on. Australians are known for their fighting spirit and everybody will be giving their everything," he said.

Curcija To Stake His Claim

By Bert van Bedaf

In Con Blatsis and Michael Curcija, former back-to-back national champion South Melbourne has two outstanding former players, who have not only hit the big time overseas but are also much on coach Raul Blanco's mind for an Olyroos spot against Italy's Serie A peppered U23s at the MCG on September 13.

Barring unforeseen developments, Blatsis is likely to take his place in the Australian defence, while Curcija may have to stake his claim with some emphatic pre-tournament matches.

With the absence of Harry Kewell, Curcija would be the ideal striker to team up with Mark Viduka, whose arrival in Melbourne is travelling a tortuous path because of the constant obfuscation by his English Premier League club Leeds United, which has now

involved FIFA's arbitration.

Curcija had no such trouble from his new club Partizan Belgrade in Yugoslavia. Blatsis also arrived on time from League club Derby County.

Should both feature in the Melbourne blockbuster, it would be the second time the two former team-mates combined in an international glamour match.

The last time they were under the world spotlight was in Rio de Janeiro at the inaugural world club championship, but Curcija rates the MCG date as a more important and nerve-racking appointment.

"That (Rio) was a fantastic experience, but we had a lot less pressure on us than there's now on the national side in the Olympics," Curcija observed.

"Playing at the MCG in front of a record home crowd will be special," he said.

The MCG, Melbourne's 1956 Olympic arena, has been increasingly the stage

for some of Australia's showcase soccer matches, such as the unforgettable drama against Iran and the friendly against world club Manchester United.

A traditional theatre for cricket and Australian Rules football, which saw Essendon beat Melbourne in an all-Melbourne grand final last Saturday in front of a 96,000-plus crowd, is increasingly becoming the "home venue" for Australian soccer as well with crowds to match.

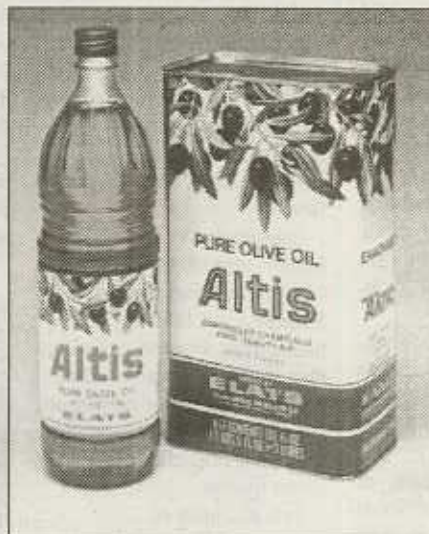
Blatsis left South Melbourne after an exhausting and ultimately disappointing national league season, when it failed to make the finals, only to return for the grand quest of claiming an Olympic medal.

Both players are likely to get a chance to show their mettle in friendlies against Kuwait at Olympic Park on September 5 and against South Africa on their former home ground Bob Jane stadium on September 7.



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WATSON'S WONDERFUL FRIENDS

(PART II)



Marconi's Darren MacDonald in action against Sydney Olympic.



Sydney Olympic's Kresimir Marusic gets in front of the Sydney United defender.



Eddie Krncevic: Shoots at goal.



Joe Watson: Australia's legendary winger.



Public Relations: The Australian and Scottish teams combine all in the name of Joe Watson.



Marconi's Pan Keun Kim holds possession.



Action from Sydney Olympic versus Sydney United.



New Sydney United coach Alan Hunter on the Australian bench enjoys the lighter side of the day.

By John Economos

Joey Watson, Sydney City's former Australian World Cup right winger extraordinaire, recently struck down by a very serious illness, has ignited an unbelievable chain-reaction of powerful support from his countless friends and the general Soccer community.

Today, the former dynamic Hakoah, then Sydney City, right winger, is lying in hospital, fighting his greatest battle.

Unquestionably the best crosser of the ball that Australia has seen, Joe Watson, had migrated to Australia in the early 70s from his native Scotland.

The creator of hundreds of goals yielded from his lethal crosses over the years for both Hakoah and Sydney City, as well as for Australia, brought immeasurable thrills and spills to thousands of Soccer fans that flocked into stadiums to see one Joe Watson.

Now Watson is in a real fight. But he's not been left to fight alone.

Fund Raising Functions For

Watson.

Four weeks ago Watson underwent surgery lasting over 22 hours. It was the very first operation of its type performed in Australia. Medical and hospital bills that rapidly rocketed in, made sure that they ran into many tens of thousands of dollars.

Funds Now Most Urgently Needed.

Spearheaded by two of Joey's former team-mates at Sydney City, international sweeper Alex Robertson and international custodian Tony Pezzano, rolled up their sleeves and put their shoulders to the wheel to quickly set up a devoted steering committee, organising fund-raising functions across Sydney.

Five in all that is.

The final Watson Fundraising Day has been blue-printed for Sunday September the 10th at Jellicoe Park in the Sydney suburb of Pagewood.

Alex Robertson stated to ABSW: "We've planned this whole day as a 'Family Day'. There'll be four Soccer matches played, there will be jumping

castles for the kids, BBQ's. A total family fun day as Joe Watson would want it."

Robertson elaborated: "At noon the first match will kick off between Scotland against Australia. Then we'll have Rangers vs Celtic with Liverpool then meeting Everton.

As well, an Under 9s match, Sans Souci vs Lindfield, will be played in which Joe's own little son will play," ended Robertson.

The first Fundraiser was

staged on Saturday 12th of this month, a Trivia night held at the Ramsgate RSL which attracted 300 people crowded in and fiercely bid at an auction. On the same night, the NSW Soccer Federation held their Awards Night at which some \$36,000 was raised in honour of Joe Watson.

Saturday 19th saw 500 Scots and Englishmen crowd into the Coogee RSL where spirited bidding saw a Rangers' Soccer shirt

climb to \$5,200.

Former Sydney City left winger Willie Murray was contacted to organise some Soccer shirts. Within three days Murray incredibly air-expressed shirts of Hearts, Hibernian, Celtic and of course Rangers, direct from Scotland.

Last Wednesday week, at the Hakoah Club at Bondi Beach, former club players from 25 years back attended a cocktail party in honour of Joey. Three Hakoah Directors presented three personal cheques totalling no less than \$30,000 towards Joey's medical costs.

The Hakoah evening was steeped with nostalgia. Stars from the past filed into the Club. Alan Marnoch, Kevin Mullen, Robbie Fekete, Murray Barnes, Robertson, Pezzano, Johnny Watkiss, Johnny Warren (guest), Jean-Paul de Marigny, were just a few of the super stars that attended.

Marconi Stadium.

Last Saturday week at Club Marconi, almost 600 people crowded into the Club's new auditorium for a Joe Watson

Dinner-Auction. During the afternoon Soccer matches were played from noon through to 6pm.

Every player had to pay \$100 into the kitty to play.

Former Watson team-mates at club level as well as playing with him for Australia, turned up to play in the afternoon, then attend the Dinner later.

All for their little mate Joey. Steve O'Connor, Terry Greedy, Kevin Mullen, Johnny McKie, Peter Mullen, Kenny Wilson, Robertson, Pezzano, Murray Barnes, David Ratcliffe, Eddie Krncevic, Frank Farina, John Kosmina, were just some spotted in the jam-packed auditorium.

Saturday Night at Club Marconi was just magnificent.

Alex Robertson had even tracked down former Sydney City's highly energised Soccer General manager David Childs. David flew down from Brisbane to act as the electrifying auctioneer. The evening was absolutely superb.

Joe Watson, you truly have thousands of wonderful friends.



Marconi coach Eddie Krncevic attempts what he is famous for. (Gerry Gomez in background).

Youthful Revolution at the Tigers

The success of the Leichhardt Tigers Under 18s in the NSW Super League 2000 season, winning both the Championship and the Premiership, did not go unnoticed.

Significantly, this is the first occasion since the inception of the Third Grade competition in 1957 that this great club has won this title.

The Championship win was also the Club's first since 1987 (APIA Leichhardt were National League Champions).

So what is happening at Leichhardt?

Club President Tony Raciti says that the future for the Tigers is squarely based on a strategic commitment to Youth development.

"During the 2000 season we introduced an apprenticeship scheme which saw four under



John Romeo: Star coaching recruit.

18s players signed to train with First Grade."

"The average age of our senior squad players for the 2000 season was just under 19 and a half. We finished second in the Club Championship and were one of only two clubs to have all three senior teams in the playoffs," said Mr Raciti.

A key catalyst to the Youth strategy has been the recruitment to the Leichhardt senior coaching ranks of John Romeo. John coached the talented Under 18s to their outstanding successes this season.

A full time teacher and coordinator with the Catholic Education, John played soccer at APIA Leichhardt under Rale Rasic.

Talk with John for 10 minutes and you will soon come to understand why he is the current Senior NSW State coach for the Catholic school system and why

Leichhardt has pinned its immediate Youth development program around him.

"Youth represents the hope and future of our great game," says John. "It must be nurtured,



encouraged and developed to understand that soccer is more than 11 very fit athletes kicking and chasing a ball around the park for 90 minutes."

"Consistent with the diversity of individuals who play the game, the skills and technical

nuances of soccer are many and varied."

He added: "My approach is to help players adapt their creativity and individuality into a team dynamic and to blend this adaptation with the technical, tactical, physical and mental discipline required to play quality soccer. In this way players learn what is required to win every game. My focus has always been based purely on learning and never winning. The winning will always follow," ended Mr Romeo.

The 2000 season results for the Under 18s at Leichhardt speak for themselves. John Romeo has been appointed Under 19s coach at Leichhardt for the 2000/2001 summer competition. We will continue to look with great interest at the youth revolution from Lambert Park.

U/12 SUPER CADETS — MARCONI STALLIONS



As season 2000 comes to an end, the Under 12 Marconi team can be very proud of their achievements.

They came third on the competition table at the end of 19 home and away rounds and have

fallen just one win short of a Grand Final appearance.

After terrific wins in the play-off series against Bankstown and Sydney Olympic, the Central Coast Coasties put an end to their aspirations.



Back Row: Neville Orlando (Manager), Grant Gulabovski, David Bruzzese, Anthony Tran, Troy Roberts, Daniel Bertovic, Paul Medulla, Danny Martinez, Wade Oostendorp, Rick Chiellini (Coach). Front Row: Tayfun Buyukcopru, Daniel Romeo, Louis D'Ella, Alex Walker, Sargon Warda, Tony Oliva.

As Coach Rick Chiellini reminded everyone after the game, it has been a huge season for the team and they should feel well satisfied with what they have achieved.

Player development is what it is all about as well as preparing youngsters for the more demanding Super Youth league of 2001 and beyond. Well done guys and thanks for a wonderful season.

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Letters to the Editor

EASY AS ABC TO IEC

Dear Sir,

Once again I have to agree with Dominic Galati of I.E.C. about Soccer Australia again copping out of its responsibilities.

They have allowed three embattled clubs plus two or three others to remain in a national competition just to make up the numbers, when the game is crying out for quality and not quantity.

I don't have to go over the fact that we are continually losing our best players to Europe and other overseas clubs every year, so how they can still justify 16 teams in a national competition is nothing short of a joke. Perhaps the bad publicity

during an Olympic year that litigation and court battles would attract is the main reason in their thinking, but it won't change the fact that it will be another wasted year for the national league when nearly half the sides once again will have no hope of making the finals, let alone win the title.

Realistically only 10 teams are needed in Australia, spread out according to the strength of the game in each state, not just on a geographical base. Just like AFL's strength is in Victoria, and the NRL's is in NSW, Soccer's strength is definitely in NSW.

So this is how a 10 team

comp should be spread out. One in Perth, one in Adelaide, one in Melbourne, one in Brisbane, one in Auckland (perhaps) and five in NSW.

Of the five in NSW, one is from Newcastle, one from Wollongong and only three in Sydney, or four without an Auckland, Wollongong or Brisbane.

If it's only reduced down to 12 teams the following season, it's still two too many in my book.

However I wouldn't hold my breath waiting for it to come down to 12 teams let alone 10 for the following year as the Soccer Australia officials will continue to

look for the easy way out, unlike the NRL who gave South Sydney the chop from their comp, and are sticking by their decision no matter what happens in the courts.

**Dominic Scullino,
Nerang, QLD.**

As usual, an interesting account of soccer matters on your part. You're right about our competition needing to be reduced but I'm not sure you've made any friends in Victoria by suggesting they should have only one club in the national competition. I believe they would have a right to move than that. - Ed

COSMOS GIVEN GREEN LIGHT

By Graham Cooke

Soccer Australia has given Canberra Cosmos the green light for their continued participation in the National Soccer League, completing a remarkable nine-week comeback.

In June even the most optimistic supporter would not have bet on the club being able to turn out for a sixth season in the NSL, but a series of initiatives engineered by incoming chairman Danny Moulis has restored the ailing club's financial fortunes.

It is now up to coach Tom



Danny Moulis: Hard work has paid off so far.

Sermanni to work a second miracle with a squad which has lost several key members and will almost certainly begin the season with a substantial number of players previously unknown to the NSL.

An embargo against offering contracts to players has been lifted, but Sermanni will have to begin the business of assembling a squad at a time where most of his rivals are putting the finishing touches to theirs.

Moulis said the decision by Soccer Australia's commissioners was "a great result and the right result...the only regret I have is that it took so long".

VIS inducts new intake

By Roy Hay

Last week the Director of the Victorian Institute of Sport Dr Frank Pike, Head Coach Ernie Merrick and Olyroo goalkeeping coach Jim Fraser welcomed the new intake of scholarship holders to what was described as 'one of the best soccer programs in the world.'

Its track record of producing Joeys, Young Socceroos, Olyroos and Socceroos is second to none and at least three graduates will line up for Australia at the Olympics this month — Simon Colosimo, Con Blatsis and Vince Grella. Frank Pike told the new intake about the unrivalled facilities at the disposal of members and about the qualities required for success as champion athletes.

Olyroo goalkeeping coach and former Socceroo keeper Jim Fraser also talked to the newcomers about the differences between his experiences in the 1970s and those of young players today.

"You now have a ladder to success and tremendous support at all levels. It will still take lots of hard work, but now you have back-up at every step of the way," he told them.

Ernie Merrick reminded them that the Institute program was designed to produce players to play for Australia at all levels.

The players are taught not just how to develop their skills on the field, but also about conditioning, recovery, time management, diet and decision making, so that they can take charge of their own preparation.

Part of this experience comes from overseas touring and the VIS has developed a close relationship with Malaysia, where former AIS Head Coach Ron Smith is now in charge of youth development.

Ian Greener, Director of Coaching at the Victorian Soccer Federation, whose talent identification programs produce most of the VIS intake, pointed out that players coming

back from overseas told how the VIS program was far in advance of that at many top professional clubs.

The players' education is not neglected and they are encouraged to concentrate on their schooling and develop their talents outside the game, though soccer must be their first priority if they wish to achieve success.

In 2000 the VIS squad will include:

Player Name	Birth Date	Club
2003 U/20		
Chillico Ricky	9/2/83	Fawkner SC
Rocco Daniel	2/22/83	Fawkner SC
Papadopolous Even	1/28/83	Altona East SC
2001 U/17		
Au, Fred	8/27/84	Port Melb SC
Ostrowski Damien	11/7/84	Box Hill SC
Reochis Carl	12/13/84	Fawkner SC
Beni Brendan		Fawkner SC
2005 U/20		
Dilevski Spase	5/13/85	Sydenham Pk SC
Ibraimi Ibraimi	4/17/85	Sth Dandenong SC
Sham-Yuen Michael	4/9/85	Box Hill SC
Karas Manny	3/22/85	Brunswick City SC
De Vito Sammy	5/1/85	Box Hill SC
Mitrovski Steve	2/25/85	Sydenham Park SC
Cenili Vito	3/19/85	Bulleen SC
Popovski Michael	9/23/85	G'long Rangers SC
Ceslaski Billy	7/14/85	Bulleen SC
2003 U/17		
Oksuz Serkan	6/16/86	Melb Knights SC
Sarkies Kristian	10/25/86	Southern SC
Morales Christian	11/25/86	Bulleen SC
Gorgevski Bobby	6/13/86	Preston SC

For regional Victoria the VIS has always been a particular benefit, picking up future stars like Robert Enes, so 15-year-old Michael Popovski took a giant step towards soccer stardom when he joined the Victorian Institute of Sport soccer program last Wednesday night.

The Geelong Rangers striker follows Socceroo and Olyroo Josip Skoko and Kris Trajanovski who have used the VIS as a stepping stone to international honours.



The VIS squad.

GLORY IN RACE FOR STALLION

By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory's potentially defensive void could be resolved should the up and coming trial of former Joey and national U-20 left-sided defender Vuka Tomasevic prove fruitful.

The 20-year-old ex-AIS player has reportedly been lured to the west just prior to being selected for a New South Wales v Queensland clash and away from NSL clubs Northern Spirit and Parramatta Power who were equally keen to secure his signature.

"He is certainly a handy player," said Stallions coach Eddie Krncevic who was unable to retain Tomasevic at Marconi Stadium because of his

already significantly large squad.

Tomasevic, who is currently with NSW State League side Leichhardt Tigers, was believed to have been given a glowing report to Glory coach Bernd Stange, by new signing and former Marconi skipper Brad Maloney.

The stopper featured in the 1997 Joeys World Cup qualifiers and more recently, toured South America with the U/20 national team, alongside Simon Colosimo and Vince Grella.

He has made just three appearances in the National League with the Stallions, back in season 1998/99.

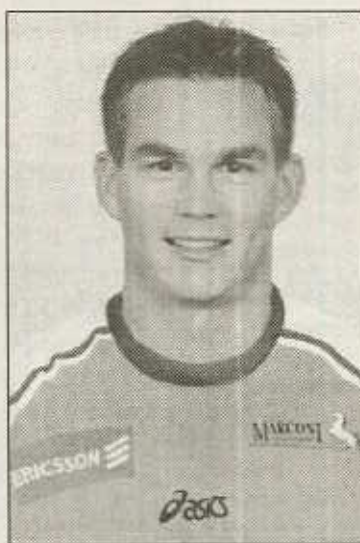
The squad's first pre-season serious hit-out will be in South Australia next week where they will play State League champions Adelaide Blue Eagles prior to taking on Adelaide Force who are

likely to field their two new NSL signings —Serie A veterans Fabrizio Bucciarelli and Walter Dondoni.

Tomasevic has been invited to play in the two hit-outs as well as the Slovakian Olympic squad friendlies at the WACA Ground on the 6th and 9th of September, before heading to the NorthWest of the state later in the month for another two game series, against the Newcastle Breakers.

One player Glory did miss out on was dynamic 18-year-old striker Adrian Caceres from the Perth Soccer Club, who recently signed a three-year, \$100,000 contract with English Premier League side Southampton.

The Perth club will pocket a \$70,000 down-payment before further monies, depending on the amount of games he



Brad Maloney: Raving about Tomasevic.

plays. Caceres, who had previously trained and trialled with both Glory and Parramatta, secured a deal at the Dell under Manager Glenn Hoddle, along with Perth's Southampton Academy 16-year-old Darren Broxton, who also signed for three-years.

Meanwhile, Glory has re-signed one of the original 1996 squad Vinko Buljubasic, for another year. The popular defender, who has just returned from a short trialling stint in Israel, is keen to prove his fitness after breaking a leg two seasons ago.

Last season's fairest and best winner Gareth Naven, retains the captaincy for a fifth consecutive season.

GREEK-AUSTRALIAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME



By Vince Battiato

On Saturday September 2nd, 2000 at the Westin Hotel in the city centre, the culmination of years of tireless effort by countless volunteers saw the introduction of the Provicare Foundation and the Greek Australian Sporting Hall of Fame with the Millenium Heritage Gala Ball.

About 800 guests were thrilled to be part of Australian and Greek Sporting History.

The evening was colourfully controlled by Master of ceremonies Alan Jones and had as its honourable guests, the Prime Minister John Howard and his wife Janene and His Eminence, Archbishop Stylianos among others.

The gala event kicked off the fund raising for the Provicare foundation, which is being set up in each state to establish Drug and Alcohol rehabilitation services for the young generation and a big cheer was welcomed to Mr. Howard when he announced an \$80 000 kick start by the government.

But the night belonged to almost 140 athletes, who either currently or in days gone by had graced their own sporting arena coming out a champion in whatever way, shape or form.

The categories were subdivided into a "record of achievement" for youth and juniors as well as Masters and veterans, "Roll of honour" which included coaches and

administrators, "Roll of Distinction", "Roll of Excellence" and the pinnacle of sporting achievers with the "Hall of Champions" where 27 athletes were inagurally inducted.

All the athletes received an excellent reception but the two biggest cheers came for ex-Australian Rugby League captain Dr. George Peponis and for ultra-marathon runner Yiannis Kouros and as MC Alan Jones explained while Kouros received his accolade "your people love you".

It was an emotional evening for many athletes some having travelled across the country to attend as well as many disabled athletes whose courage and determination on the sporting arena was recorded in Greek-Australian sporting history forever.

The event was an outstanding success and the follow-up next year will be even greater.

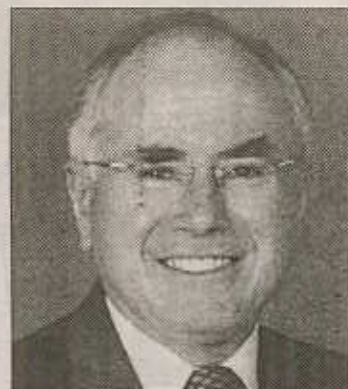
But of course the event couldn't have happened without the tireless hours given by so many.

Special thanks must go to The Millenium Heritage committee especially its chairman Father Steven Scoutas of the Kingsford St. Spyridon Parish as well as the Millenium Heritage Gala Ball committee.

Special thanks must also go out to The Greek-Australian Sports Hall of Fame committee chaired by Michael Diamond AM MBE who individually categorised each athlete through an arduous process as well as Dr. Steve Georgakis whose book Sport and the Australian Greek was the catalyst for much of the background information required to organise such an event.



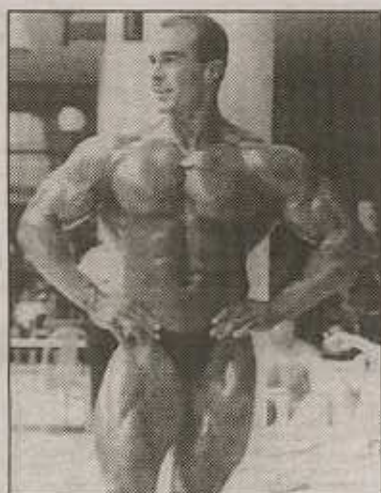
His Eminence Archbishop Stylianos.



The Honourable PM John Howard.



Nici Andronicus: Pentathlon, Triathlon & Athletics.



Terry Mitsos: Bodybuilding.



Yiannis Kouros: Ultra-marathon.



Mark Philippoussis: Tennis.

HALL OF CHAMPIONS

Nici ANDRONICUS - Pentathlon, Triathlon, Athletics
 Elisha BURGESS - Touch Football
 Petros DARAS - Cycling
 Peter DEMOS - Basketball
 Michael DIAMOND - Trap Shooting
 Michael DIAMOND AM MBE - Fencing
 George KAMBOURIS - Weightlifting
 Peter KLIOUFIS - Powerlifting
 Yiannis KOUROS - Ultra-Marathon Runner
 Stan LONGINIDIS - Kick Boxing
 Stephen MALAXOS - Australian Rules Football
 Terry MITSOS - Bodybuilding
 James NOMARHAS - Shooting
 Dr George PEPONIS - Rugby League
 Mark PHILLIPOUSSIS - Tennis
 Ed PSALTIS - Sailing
 Arthur PSALTIS - Sailing
 Peter RASKOPOULOS - Soccer
 Harry STATHAKIS - Boxing
 Bill STELLIOS - Weightlifting
 Arthur SHANNOS - Weightlifting
 George VASILADES - Weightlifting
 George VAKAKIS - Weightlifting
 Lisa-Marie VIZANIARI - Discus
 Nick VOUKELATOS - Weightlifting
 Charlie YANKOS - Soccer



Peter Raskopoulos: Soccer.



Charlie Yankos: Soccer.

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QLD v NSW



NSW Clinch Interstate Win

Blues bounce back to claim 3-2 victory over Queensland

Queensland	2
New South Wales	3

By Glenn Davis

New South Wales crawled back from an early deficit to snatch a 3-2 victory over Queensland in a thrilling revival of the interstate series at Perry Park on Sunday.

The Blues had their backs to the wall after only five minutes when Queensland took a surprise 1-0 lead when lanky midfielder Anthony Roche headed home.

The goal finished off a great movement down the left when Maroons' man-of-the-match Royce Brownlie rounded New South Wales' defender Paul Yates before chipping into the box for Roche to head home.

Queensland, who had eight players backing-up following club semi-finals the previous night, almost made in two five minutes later when Brownlie snapped a shot wide after being positioned perfectly by striker Vedran Becirbegovic.

New South Wales took almost

20 minutes to wake from a slow start before having their first chance when David Reid crossed to the far post where Matthew Borg was off target with his attempted header.

The Blues had a further two chances to find the equaliser in the space of four minutes shortly after but Yates headed wide in the 21st minute while Queensland keeper Jason Lucas saved brilliantly down

low off a Damien Brown piledriver from 30 metres.

The visitors eventually got the equaliser on the half hour when Reid ran 30 metres onto a long ball and chipped over the head of the advancing Lucas from 18 metres.

It was the start of a horrid nine minutes for the home side who surrendered two further goals to go into the break trailing 3-1 despite enjoying the greater share of pos-

session and playing the sharper football.

New South Wales' grafted their way into a 2-1 lead after Brown headed home from close range despite a valiant attempt from Lucas in the Queensland goal.

The visitors third came out of the blue when Colin Luff backed himself by smacking a 20-metre volley down low next to the upright well out of the reach of a diving Lucas.

Brownlie, who finished the Queensland premier league season as the leading goalscorer, put the Maroons back into the game 10 minutes after the interval drilling past two defenders and keeper Fernando Greco.

Unfortunately, Brownlie who worked hard up front for the homeside was unable to put away a late chance for the equalizer when his shot from close range was blocked inside the box by Blues' skipper Damien Foxe.

Despite the defeat, Queensland coach Miron Bleiberg was thrilled to see the interstate series revived and was keen for a return clash in Sydney next year.

"I thought we played the better

football but they were more direct and physical and caught us in a bad 10 minute period before half-time," Bleiberg said.

"The first 20 minutes we were well on top of them and then fatigue hit our back three players who were backing up after playing the night before.

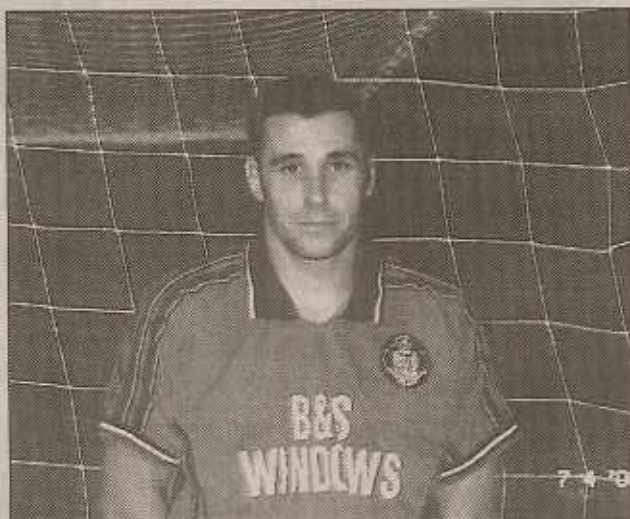
"I told my players before the game to play open football.

"We were hoping to win but if

we were going to lose I'd rather go down 6-5 than 1-0 in a dour game."

NSW delegate Doug Symes who made the trip with the squad attributed the fine win to a series of pre-game bonding sessions.

A long walk basking in the Queensland sunshine and a club evening around a pool table were the catalysts for the Blues success according to Symes.



Colin Luff: Scorer for NSW.



David Reid: Another fine performance.

Strikers beat Queensland in pre-season game

Brisbane Strikers	1
Queensland	0

By Glenn Davis

Coach John Kosmina is upbeat about Brisbane Strikers' prospects for the upcoming national league season following a 1-0 win over Queensland at Perry Park last week.

The Strikers, who dominated possession and created several chances, only got home by a slender 1-0 margin against Queensland who were making their 2000 debut in a warm up for the interstate clash with New South Wales last Sunday.

Strikers midfielder Nick Meredith broke the deadlock eight minutes from half-time when he beat a Maroon defender and rifled home a 25-metre drive.

The goal followed a free-kick from Meredith which looked goal bound into

the top left-hand corner before Queensland keeper Jamie Irwin tipped it wide.

Kosmina rated the pre-season trial against Queensland as a perfect hit-out and is keen for the Federation Cup tie to continue next season.



John Kosmina: Happy with the Strikers' start.

"It was only our second serious trial but it was a perfect hitout and a good opportunity for the local premier league players to impress," Kosmina said.

"The first half was a bit scrappy but I expected that and I thought Nick (Meredith) was a bit unlucky not to score a second time.

"We could have had two or three more goals but the players are still looking to find their feet."

Kosmina is confident the Strikers can achieve their goal to make the Top Six playoffs this season despite a disrupted pre-season with some players missing due to work and overseas commitments.

Midfielder Peter Dwyer has trained only spasmodically with the side so far because of work commitments while niggling injuries and illness has swept through the club.

"Peter's involved with security for the Brazilian Olympic team on the Gold Coast and has been in and out of training

this year," Kosmina said.

However, on a brighter note youngster Jade North is due back shortly after a brief stint playing in Italy while the club hopes to soon know whether Wayne Shroff will return after trialling with Anderlecht in the Belgium league.

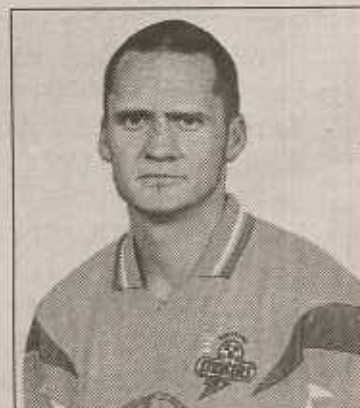
"If Wayne doesn't make it with Anderlecht we're expecting him to play with us again this season," Kosmina said.

"But for the lad's sake I hope he does well over there and makes it.

"If we play as well as we did last year and beat the teams we should like Newcastle and Gippsland then we can easily make the Top Six," he said.

The Strikers have several more pre-season games lined up but the big one they're hoping will come off is a showdown with the mighty Brazilian Olympic team.

"Hopefully we can get a trial against Brazil but they've got over 100 media contingent which could never be housed



Nick Meredith: Only goal.

at Perry Park," Kosmina said.

"We're hoping to get it played at Lang Park but it's not sanctioned as a playing venue for the Olympics."

If the Lang Park option is not acceptable to SOCOG then the match could be played at Carrara on the Gold Coast.

AUSSIES AROUND THE GLOBE



With Arvind Hickman Did you know that there are over 100 Australian soccer players plying their trade in many of the top leagues around the world? Every year new names emerge on the world stage, painting the picture of green and gold into a portrait of global recognition. Aussie Around The Globe is our weekly look at the exploits of these players and their performance.

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Every year new names emerge on the world stage, painting the picture of green and gold into a portrait of global recognition. 'Aussies Around the Globe' is our



Hayden Foxe: Permit problems.

weekly look at the exploits of these players and their performances.

A break in Europe's top leagues, due to World Cup qualifiers and friendlies, meant that a lot of Aussies were momentarily out of action. To compensate, this week's 'Aussies Around the Globe' will look at the Aussies that have moved around the globe, highlighting the big off-season transfers.

But to begin with, a few recent developments:

England: Hayden Foxe's future with West Ham United is once again in disarray with his second application for a work permit refused by the Department of Employment late last week.

The Olyroo defender was hoping to make his Premier League debut after the Olympics, but is now unsure.

Mark Bosnich is yet again in the spotlight after criticising manager Alex Ferguson for his treatment of the Soccerroo star. Bosnich described his relationship with Ferguson as like waging a 'cold war'. Bosnich also promised in future that he would, "stand up for himself".

Holland: Brett Emerton played a full game for Feyenoord as they beat FC Twente 2-1 last week. It is the Olyroo skipper's first full game for his new club in the KPN Telecompetitie.

Off Season Transfers - Big Aussie Movers

Mark Viduka's move from Celtic to Leeds United was undoubtedly the big Australian transfer of the off-season.

The Soccerroo striker came off a bumper year with Celtic, scoring 27 goals and being named Scottish Player of the Year.

Viduka has already started off the Premier League season in promising form, but yet to find the net. Viduka's strength, ability to hold players off the ball and clinical finishing will definitely suit the Premier League, and his partnership with fellow Soccerroo Harry Kewell should prove very valuable.

Manager David O'Leary has already claimed Viduka will be the bargain buy of the season, and not many would disagree with that.

Paul Okon was starting to show glimpses of the form that earned him the tag as one of the world's great 'liberos' in his earlier days with Lazio, before breaking his foot against Leeds United.

With Paul Ince running on tired legs, Okon has the ability to establish himself at Middlesbrough as a star of the Premier League, that is of course, if he can play for one season without injury.

Brett Emerton is one of the stars for the Olyroos and will be watched with keen interest at his new club Feyenoord.

Emerton got his first start in the Dutch First Division last week and while it is his first move overseas, he already has 17 appearances for the Soccerroos, a wealth of international experience for his age.

Hayden Foxe is already a great player and will undoubtedly be a raging success if he can get that damn work permit approved.

West Ham Manager, Harry Redknapp, rates Foxe as in the same class as teammate Rio Ferdinand, no small compliment for any player.

Foxe's inclusion into the Premier League can only benefit English football.

Jess Vanstratten: Who is Jess Vanstratten I hear you ask?

It certainly is a name no one should forget as this young prodigy could well continue Australia's rich tradition for producing world class keepers at new club Juventus.

Vanstratten was a star of the Joeys U-17 World Cup heroics in New Zealand last year, finishing runners up, and in around four or five years time should become a household name like that other great Aussie keeper, Mark Bosnich.



Mark Viduka: Leeds' bargain buy according to manager David O'Leary.

UNLUCKY COOPER PUSHES ON

By Graham Cooke

Sarah Cooper knows better than most how hard it is to get to the top.

In the days when the Matildas defender or midfielder was based in the Northern Territory, she used to spend long days and nights training alone, keeping fit and honing her skills by correspondence sent from the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

"I think they used to forget how hot it is up there," she recalls.

"They would send me out on a run and say that my heart rate should not go above a certain level - well in Darwin I would have had to walk to keep it at that point."

Her dedication and commitment secured her a place in the Australian squad for more than a decade, sent her to two World Cups, but was not good enough to ensure her a berth for the Sydney Olympic Games.

It was the moment every sports person dreads - past performances count for nothing, dreams lie in ruins around them.

"Shocked? Angry? Puzzled? Yes I was all of

that," she says. "I was playing well and had been in the first 11, now suddenly I wasn't even in the first 22."

At 30, the last Olympic train she could realistically catch was pulling away and she wasn't on board. It would have been easy to wash her hands of the Games, go back home and sulk.

But Cooper is made of different material - the kind which saw her picked in the Northern Territory team little more than a year after she began soccer at the age of 13 and, two years after that, make the first Australian junior team to leave these shores when she played in the 1987 Dallas Cup.

Apart from a year at the end of her studies "when I was enjoying university life a little too much" she has been involved in national teams ever since - that is until a few weeks ago.

A qualified teacher, she got back to the job of earning a living and was doing some relief work at Canberra High School when an announcement was made that suitable people were still needed to help with the Olympics in Canberra.

"I immediately got in touch," she says. "If that had not happened I would have



Sarah Cooper: Olympic dream over.

asked [Canberra SOCOG chief] Steve Doszpot if there was anything I could do.

"Okay, I'm not going to be out on the pitch, but this is still the biggest event which has ever come to Australia

and it probably won't happen again in my time, so of course I still want to be involved."

At Bruce Stadium she will be a team leader in charge of volunteers.

"My team is pretty much responsible for marshalling people into their seats," she says. "Once everyone is settled and happy we will have a chance to watch some of the matches. There are great teams coming to Canberra and I wouldn't want to miss them."

But what about that first game at Bruce on September 13, the Matildas against Germany. How will she feel? "Obviously there will be mixed emotions, but once they get out there and the anthems are played...it's an Australian team and you want them to do well."

She is also currently filling in as development officer for Soccer Canberra. "It's a job that usually goes to a Canberra Cosmos player, but with the club's future in the balance, there was no-one available so I have been doing it just for this term," she says.

"I did much the same work in the Northern Territory for three years, so I was happy to take it on. It gets me out and about. We do coaching sessions at the schools, I tell the kids about the Olympics and encourage them to go along."

"Then we also do a health message along the lines of

being sun smart and smoke free."

Also accompanying her on some of her trips is one of the Olympic countdown clocks, which helps illustrate her Games message. "It's nice to be paid for clock-watching," she says with a smile.

What lies in the future for Cooper, who came to Canberra from Darwin in 1996 to pursue her soccer career.

"Directly after the Olympics I am going to the United States to take part in a series of indoor exhibition games playing for the Rest of the World against the US," she says.

"The style of soccer they play is in ice-hockey stadiums with the ball continually coming back off the walls. You're rarely on for more than two minutes at a time because it is so fast."

"They are using it to whet the crowds' appetites for the first US Women's Professional League season which will be played outdoors beginning next March."

"There are eight teams taking part and I hope to be picked up by one of them. It's going to be really tough because all the best players in the world will be trying to get places, but I'd love to live

overseas for a while and earn some money from the game. It would be a completely different environment from the national side."

Does that mean she has put aside any thoughts of representing Australia again? "You never quite do that. I know I have at least two more

seasons of playing at the top level, and if there were changes and another coach asked me to come back, then of course I would consider it."

"Missing the Olympics is a blow, but I have been part of two World Cup campaigns. It would not devastate me if I never played for Australia again."

In recent weeks she has been a delegate at the World Conference on Tobacco or Health in the US. In the longer term a career in sports administration, or sports-related health fields, seems to beckon.

"Yes that is something I would like to do," she says. "Australia is bidding for the Women's World Cup in 2003 and if we get that I would like to be involved."

"I would have thought there would be an opening for a former international player with a strong administrative background."

Knights count their Olympic pedigree



Mark Viduka: His career is closely followed by the Knights.

By Bert van Bedaf

The Melbourne Knights can look towards the Olympics with a pedigree of three players keen and able to earn Australia that first and elusive medal at home.

Star striker Mark Viduka, goalkeeper Joe Didulica and defender Dragi Nastevski carry the Knights banner into the Olympic squad.

Viduka has not been a Knight since 1995 but his name is emblazoned on the grand stand and money from his transfers has kept the Sunshine club firmly in the black.

He first transferred to Dinamo Zagreb, Croatia, netting the Knights something up to \$500,000. Then he made a much publicised move to Celtic Glasgow, Scotland, which earned the Knights more than \$1 million.

He recently joined co-striker Harry Kewell at Leeds United in the English Premier League, which didn't add to the Knights coffers, but Viduka's moves up the European ladder are keenly followed at Sunshine with considerable pride.

With Kewell out injured, Viduka will be Australia's main spearhead in the medal quest. The V-Bomber has not lost any of his desire to represent Australia and being part of the Olympics at home is an added incentive.

"It's very important for me to be part of the Sydney Olympics. I've been dreaming about it for a long time and I love playing for my country," Viduka said.

Didulica will have to compete with Leeds United goalkeeper Danny Milosevic, formerly from Perth Glory.

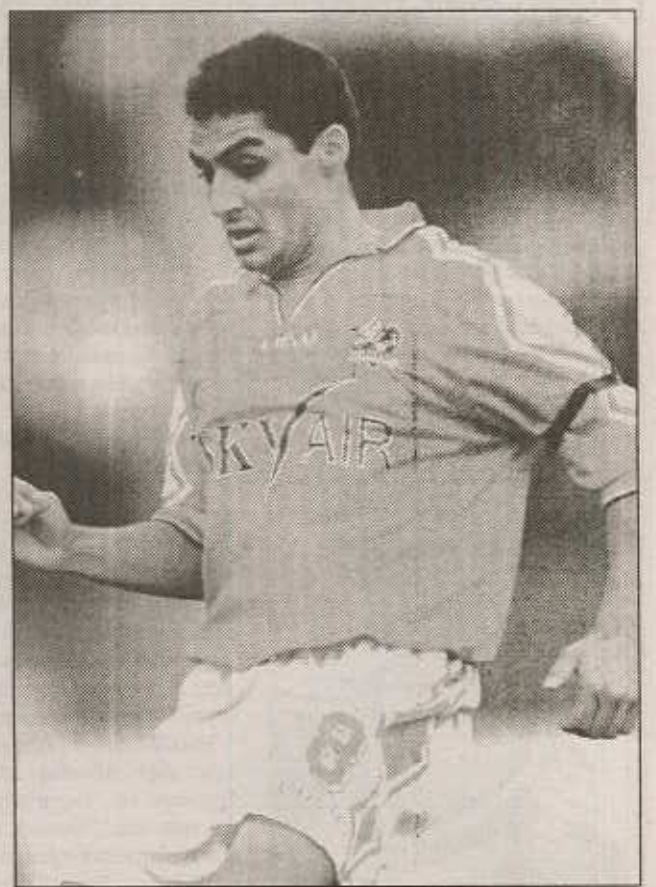
Originally from Geelong, Didulica made his name at the Knights as a spectacular if sometimes unpredictable goalkeeper. But he's displayed enough talent and style to attract the attention of Dutch giant Ajax Amsterdam, where he's currently vying for a senior spot.

Didulica has had his mind set on a medal ever since he put the gold medal of an Ajax team mate around his neck. Nigerian player Babangida showed his Atlanta 1996 gold medal at training.

"I put it around my neck. I didn't want to give it back. I've just got to have one of these," an envious Didulica said.

Dragi Nastevski is on standby but will experience the entire Olympics campaign with the squad, training in Melbourne for the opening match against Italy at the MCG on September 13 before leaving for Sydney.

The Olyroos, supplemented with additional players from the



Dragi Nastevski: Waving the Knights flag in the Olympic team.

Victorian Institute of Sport, played the Knights last Saturday and lost 2-0 to a motivated Sunshine outfit, in full training for the start of the national league season mid-October.

"It was a friendly game and you could see the Olympic team is not yet in shape," Knights coach Vlado Vanis said.

Nastevski played for the Olyroos, together with Michael Curcija, Simon Colosimo, Archie Thompson and standby 'keeper Michael Turnbull in goal. New Knights signing Joel Porter and tri-artist Joe Kozic from Preston accounted for the Knights goals.

Raiders work towards return

By Bert van Bedaf

Relegated Melbourne Raiders are already working towards a return to the Victorian Premier League. Their tilt received a welcome lift when Joe Caruso announced he's staying on as president.

Caruso will head the club's efforts to make an immediate return to the VPL. The club relegated to division one of the State League last season.

Members and supporters quickly rallied around the Epping stadium-based club.

At last week's annual general meeting, Caruso said the AGM had been called early, rather than at the usual time in November, to "give the club enough time to

start rebuilding".

Two members, Nick Kandi and John Liistro, resigned from the board. The Raiders were unsuccessful in entering a team in the national youth league.

Raiders spokesperson Ross Follacchio said the club's first priority was to appoint a coach.

Last season's coaches Chris Taylor and Frank McGrellis have both indicated their interest. Midfielder and captain George Slifkas has expressed his desire to become player-coach.

But Slifkas, who signed a five-year contract two seasons ago, is also keen to continue playing in the VPL and is believed to have had offers from Fawkner, Heidelberg and Port Melbourne.

Former coach, goalkeeper and club stalwart Mauro Raponi is interested in making a coaching

return. Others in the running are former Melbourne Knights and St Albans coach Vid Horvat, as well as former Preston player and Soccerroo and ex-Melbourne City coach Oscar Crino.



Joe Caruso

Royals need better grounds

By Bert van Bedaf

Moving up in the world poses its headaches as newly promoted club Essendon Royals found out.

The Royals may need to find another playing venue to meet Victorian Premier League standards or substantially renovate their ground at the Reggio Calabria Club in inner-Melbourne suburb Brunswick, club president Albert Pagnin indicated at the close of the State League division one season.

The Royals finished second, a point behind South Dandenong to move into the VPL for the first time in the club's 40-year history. They were already assured of a place with a few rounds to spare but just missed out on winning the title.

"Unfortunately we missed out on the championship, but we're happy where we are, having won promotion," Pagnin said.

The Essendon president said the club was unsure where it would play next season.

The VPL starts next February, so there's enough time to work out an arrangement with the Calabria club, who owns the ground, which

is not up to VPL standard.

Although the pitch is fine, the coaches' dug-outs will need to be upgraded and the portable changing rooms will need to be improved. The ground needs a media box, better fencing and proper public facilities, including public toilets, according to Pagnin.

Essendon Royals believe the Reggio club should pick up the tab, but this is currently in dispute.

"We want the Reggio club to look after these things and not the soccer club. We need more support from the club to stay. It is a delicate situation at the moment," Pagnin said.

The Royals use the ground free of charge, but in exchange the club brings customers to the licensed club, which operates poker machines.

Apart from some canteen money earned by the Royals during the match, all other income goes to the Calabria Club, Pagnin indicated.

While there's a stalemate, the Royals are effectively without a suitable VPL ground. They haven't yet found another venue. A possible move to Epping stadium in Whittlesea, through a merger with another State League club

Whittlesea Stallions, was rejected.

Playing at VPL club Fawkner has also been discounted. The club wants to stay in the Essendon area and Essendon Football Club's Windy Hill has been mentioned as a possible new home, although it seems unlikely the mighty footy Bombers would be willing to surrender their spiritual home and training ground to the round ball code.

"We need to have the right facilities. If the (VPL) conditions are not met at the Reggio Club, we'll have a problem," Pagnin said.

Apart from seeking assistance from local government, the Royals are also discussing the issue with the Victorian Soccer Federation. "We're having an appointment with people at the VSF to look at some grounds," Pagnin said.

One of its players, Neil Wallace, is an executive in media liaison and marketing at the VSF, but VSF chief executive Geoff Miles denied there could be a conflict of interest.

"There is no conflict of interest. This is not Neil's area, so he would not be involved. He does not get involved in any club issues. If the club is seeking support, it would come to me, anyway," Miles said.

Bruce surface torn up again

By Graham Cooke

The controversial Bruce Stadium playing surface has been torn up for the second time in a month and will be laid again beginning today (Tuesday) - little more than a week before the first games in the Olympic soccer tournament are due to be played there.

At the weekend the pitch was a bare rectangle of dirt - the turf from North Queensland, parts of which had died during Canberra's Arctic August, now nothing more than garden mulch.

It is being replaced by a

special breed of turf from a Melbourne company which, say its advocates, can be ready for use a couple of days after being laid.

At a Friday breakfast to launch Canberra's Olympic soccer involvement, the Chief Minister, Kate Camell, praised Canberrans who have rallied around during the crisis.

"We have had offers of turf from people's back gardens, the Vikings Rugby Union Club were ready to rip up their entire surface at Wannlassa Oval and the Southern Cross Bowling Club said we could have the grass from their greens," she said.

"Everyone from individual

labourers to construction companies have been ringing us asking what they can do to save the football for Canberra."

Meanwhile Nigeria's women's football team arrived in the city on Saturday afternoon, and expressed surprise when told the next day was Sunday.

Officials and players had been confused by the 'loss' of a day during the long flight from their training camp in Germany.

They immediately rearranged their training schedule to allow for religious observance.

Breakers Pre-Season Challenge Cup

ROUND 1:

SYDNEY OLYMPIC (L Wilson 41m, N Carle 64m)	2
NORTHERN SPIRIT (D Watkins 51m)	1
Referee: A Nardi.	
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	0
MARCONI STALLIONS	0
Referee: B Williams;	
Crowd: 1521 at Breakers Stadium.	

By Greg Danvers

Sydney Olympic collected major points in the four-team three round Breakers Challenge Cup last Friday night with a 2-1 win

over Northern Spirit while the Breakers and Marconi fought out a 0-0 draw.

Newcastle AM radio station 2HD has sponsored the tournament.

The winner will collect \$15000 while the runner up

Round One Wrap

will walk away with \$5000.

The Newcastle Breakers pushed the entire off-field dramas aside to produce some entertaining soccer for the 1521 loyal fans.

The Breakers had the best of the chances in the first half with striker John Buonavoglia having two clear chances.

Buonavoglia hit the right post in the 26th minute and was again denied three minutes later by Marconi defender Chad Gibson.

Andy Roberts, shooting from an acute angle, watched his shot skim across the front of goal and Andy Harper shot wide before the break.

The home side almost snared the points in injury time

but Vasko Trpceviski's free kick from 25 yards struck the wall.

"The first half we came out pretty sharp," Breakers coach Lee Sterrey said of his team's game.

"We settled down well and created some good chances on goal. "This tournament is a good preparation for the (NSL) season."

Marconi coach Eddie Krncevic was relieved to get through a competitive hit out without a loss.

"That was our first serious hit out," Krncevic commented. "It's still early and we're trying things out but I thought it was a good competitive hit out."



John Buonavoglia: Breakers best chances.

Sydney Olympic scored a 2-1 victory over a young Northern Spirit outfit in the first match of the series.

Lindsay Wilson chipped Northern Spirit 'keeper Paul Henderson five minutes before the break and striker Nick Carle beat the offside trap to go one-on-one with Henderson to slot home the winner in the 64th.

Spirit had equalised six minutes into the second session through a Daniel Watkins well directed shot through the legs of advancing Olympic 'keeper Clint Bolton.

Sydney Olympic coach Branko Culina was not getting carried away with the win but believes winning will put his

team in the right frame of mind for the following two rounds.

"Winning is a habit just like losing," Culina said.

"Tonight I thought we did OK, I was quite pleased with the fluency."

Northern Spirit assistant coach Ian Crook was more than pleased with the effort displayed by his charges.

"I'm delighted considering we had three 16-year-olds on the pitch," Crook said.

"I was also pleased with the older guys who steered the youngsters around well."

"We basically haven't done any work on our shape as yet but we'll improve as the tournament goes on."

ROUND 2:

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS (E Masi 26m)	1
SYDNEY OLYMPIC (T Alilovic 67m)	1
Referee: J Streeter.	
MARCONI STALLIONS	0
NORTHERN SPIRIT	0
Referee: C Diomis	
Crowd: 911 at Breakers Stadium.	

By Greg Danvers

Sydney Olympic lead the pack in the Newcastle Breakers Challenge Cup being played at Breakers Stadium after the second round was completed last Sunday night.

Olympic drew 1-1 with Newcastle while Marconi and Northern Spirit played out a dour scoreless draw in the second match of the double header.

With only two hours sleep and a long flight across the Tasman a weary Graham

Arnold steered the young Northern Spirit side around the park in the sweepers role.

Arnold was well supported by his assistant coach Ian Crook at right back for 71 minutes.

"Graham has played 180 minutes of football now in two days," Ian Crook said of Arnold.

"Our first team have been in Auckland playing a trial against the Kingz."

"That's why we've had a basically young side out here in the first of the two trials."

"On Thursday we should have nearly a full strength

Round Two Wrap

side." Marconi attacked well in the first half with three clear chances but the Spirit 'keeper Paul Henderson ensured a clean sheet with some quality reflex saves.

Former Breakers super youth league player and Australian schoolboy John Majarovski almost snared a win for Spirit in the dying stages of the match.

Majarovski's left-foot strike had Marconi 'keeper David Aceski diving to his left to push wide of the goal.

"I was quite happy with the way we played in the first half," Marconi coach Eddie Krncevic said.

"But we dropped off in the second half and lost sense of positioning."

"We are missing some punch upfront."

"We will have to look overseas in the next week or so to get something special upfront."

The Newcastle Breakers and Sydney Olympic enter-

tained the small but vocal crowd with a 1-1 draw in the first match.



Peter Tsekenis: Great match against his old club.

Breakers recruit Fijian international striker Esala Masi scored a magic goal 26 minutes in to the match.

Midfielder Damian Smith released Masi on the right who worked into the area and then let rip with a right-foot shot that went whizzing past Olympic shot stopper Clint Bolton.

Masi started the match well putting Daniel McBreen into the clear four minutes into the match but Olympic 'keeper Clint Bolton was quick to smother the ball at his feet.

Bolton got down low to another of Masi's low projectiles stopping a 10-metre drive five minutes from the break.

"Overall it was a good hit out for us," Breakers coach Lee Sterrey said.

"I thought the first half was good considering it was a mix and match in combinations."

Sterrey made seven changes to his starting side from the Friday night 0-0 draw with Marconi.

"I thought Peter Tsekenis was strong in the middle of midfield and against his old club I guess he had something

to prove," Sterrey added.

"Masi created some chances but he's going to have to step up his work rate."

Olympic had few chances after being shut down by the solid Newcastle back four. Their most promising raid came in the 24th minute when Lindsay Wilson and Ante Moric worked a one-two down the left side; Wilson's cross was unable to be controlled by striker Nick Carle.

Olympic equalised in the 67th minute through second half substitute Tony Alilovic from a set piece.

Alilovic struck the ball past the wall into the top right corner of the net from 30 metres.

"I kept the same team and

with two games in two days I wanted to see how they backed up," Olympic coach Branko Culina said of his tactics for the match.

"Northern Spirit are a team that let you play whereas Newcastle make it difficult for you to play."

"But overall I was pleased with our effort especially our defence."

"I think Clint Bolton was the difference between the two teams in the first half."

Breakers meet Northern Spirit on Thursday in the first of the third round matches while Marconi and Olympic play in the second match.

The tournament concludes on Saturday with the final.

POINTS TABLE AFTER ROUND TWO

Club	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Olympic	2	1	0	1	3	2	4
Breakers	2	0	0	2	1	1	2
Marconi	2	0	0	2	1	1	2
Spirit	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

ACT CHAMPIONS: BELCONNEN UNITED



We are the Champions.



Belconnen captain Scott Manson lifts the ACT Premiership trophy.

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AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH
SOCCER
WEEKLY

SCHOOLBOY SOCCER

Australian Squads Announced

Australian Schools Soccer is proud to announce their representative teams for upcoming tours and international tournaments. The teams were selected following the National Championships in Darwin last week.

Three teams - two Boys and one Girls - have been selected with two squads of shadow players also announced.

Australian Schoolboys

Scott Whalan(NSW)
Ben Xerri(NSW)
Chris Fleming(NSW)
Martin Lorenzo(Vic)
Phillip Gregorace(NSW)
David Petkovski(Vic)
Ismael Arrate(NSW)
Ricky Chilico(Vic)
Dustin Wells(ACT)
James Monie(NSW)
Nick Budin(SA)
Michael De Bono(NSW)
Evan Papadopoulos(Vic)
Goran Veljanovski(ACT)
Daniel Debevc(Vic)
John Majurovski(NSW)

Australian "A" Schoolboys

Bob Ghotb(Vic)
Michael McKenna(ACT)
Farren Fleiter(Qld)
Amied Shadmaan(ACT)
Ivan Klarica(Vic)
Christopher Scuderi(Qld)
Shane Groen(NSW)
Felipe Alves(SA)
Simon Bernadino(SA)
Matt Anstey(ACT)
Brett Kitching(Qld)
Robert Cibesku(WA)
Matthew Biggins(NSW)
Antony Ferrante(SA)
Steven Mancevski(Vic)
Brendan Lewandowski (Qld)

Australian Schoolgirls

Erin Hunter(NSW)
Sasha Vijars(Qld)
Linda Karner(Qld)
Alison Hogg(NSW)
Kathryn Collins(NSW)
Rae Pryde(Qld)
Kathryn Ward(NSW)

Amelia Covey(Qld)
Belinda Flewell-Smith(NSW)
Lindsey Jobling(WA)
Nicole Kimber(NSW)
Emma Davison(NSW)
Meehan Shepherd(NSW)
Aivi Luik(Qld)
Lisa Devanna(WA)
Tracey Oldham(NSW)

Australian Schoolgirls - Shadows

Dimitra Poulos(NSW)
Tammy Weckert(NT)
Gemma Langley(WA)
Tova Deku(NSW)
Haylee Kajewski(Qld)
Tobie Bernard(WA)
Bernie Madden(NSW)
Leah Blayney(NSW)
Melanie Healey(NT)
Belinda Pacella(Vic)
Daniele Lowe(Qld)
Jessica Syne(NSW)
Angela Murphy(NSW)
Catherine Cannuli(NSW)
Kylie Chatto(NT)

Australian Schoolboys - Shadows

Moss(Qld)
David Scarsella(SA)
Michael Arena(NSW)
Corte(NSW)
Steven Arnott(ACT)
Ryhs Graham(WA)
Danny Agnello(ACT)
Ian Waldon(ACT)
Adrian Papaluca(NSW)
Michael West(NSW)
Adam Poole(Vic)
Boris Ovcin(Vic)
Sam Banks(NT)
Manolis Tsirogianis(NT)
Daniel Bernadin(Qld)
David Foster(WA)
Clinton Larfield(ACT)
Michael Baird(Qld)
Simon Mitchell(SA)
Jonathon Van Der Voet(WA)
Adam Kiley(WA)
Jason Godfrey(WA)
Robert Pedri(WA)

FAMOUS PHOTOS

Have your photo taken with someone famous in soccer?
Even if it happened years ago, you can have the photo published in ABSW.

Send photos to — The Editor:

Australian and British Soccer Weekly

P.O. Box 155, Marrickville NSW 1475

Or E-mail the photo in JPEG format to

soccerweekly@hotmail.com

**All photos will be returned.*

JUNIOR SOCCER

HAVE YOUR PHOTO OR A PHOTO OF YOUR SOCCER TEAM PUBLISHED IN THE
AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY.

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SEND PHOTOS TO:- **THE EDITOR, AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY, P.O. BOX
115, MARRICKVILLE NSW 1475,**

OR E-MAIL PHOTOS IN JPEG FORMAT TO:

soccerweekly@hotmail.com.

**All photos will be returned.*

STARS IN THE MAKING

ABSW's Mark Stavroulakis continues his weekly look at Junior Soccer in Australia.

Brett Studman

AT A GLANCE

Full Name: Brett Studman
Club: Sydney Olympic
DOB: 19/4/85
Left/Right: Right
Eye Colour: Brown
Hair Colour: Auburn
Height: 184cm
Weight: 74kg
Positions Played: Stopper

THE STATS & FACTS

Clubs Played At:
U13 - Macleay Valley
U14 - 15 Sydney Olympic
Age Started Playing Soccer: 5

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight To Date: Making the Joeys train on squad and winning the U15 Nationals with NSW.
Ambition: To play for Australia and become professional
Words Of Advice: "Always do your best"
Best Advice Received: "Never give up" (Harry Kewell)

PERSONALITY INSIGHT

Favourite Actor: Chris Tucker
Favourite Actress: Jennifer Lopez
Top 5 Movies:
- Wogboy
- Friday
- Romeo & Juliet
- Me, Myself and Irene
- Scary Movie
Favourite Comedian: Guido Hatzis
If you could be a character from any movie who would you be? Chris Tucker in Friday
Best ever concert: Big Day Out '99
5 Cd's You Couldn't Do Without?
- 666 - Paradox
- Wild 9
- Wild 11
- Skitz 7
- 99.3 Volume 3
Favourite TV show: The Simpsons
Favourite Cartoon Character: Homer Simpson
Dinner Party For 6, Who Would You Invite?
- Pele
- Jennifer Lopez
- Nick Stavroulakis
- Pamela Andersson
- Girlfriend
- Chris Tucker
Entrée: Mars Bar
Main Course: Pizza
Dessert: Chocolate Mudcake

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: Rivaldo
Favourite Overseas Team: Barcelona
Most Admired Australian Player (Local Based): Simon Colosimo
Most Admired Australian Player (Overseas Based): Harry Kewell
Most Admired Defender: Roberto Carlos
Most Admired Midfielder: Rivaldo
Most Admired Striker: Ronaldo
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Jose Chilavert
Hardest Opponent (Played): Brett Holman

Time has not wearied the young at heart, and its players like Brett Studman that defy the law of being able to take on the big boys.

This raw 15-year-old has taken NSW by surprise by not only his size but his strength as well.

The towering stopper was part of the successful Under 15 NSW state team that took out this year's title in style. "It was great winning the Nationals as I was proud to be part of such a good team," said Brett.



Brett Studman: 'Red-head assassin'.

One of the main players in the recent tournament, Brett was then selected in the thirty-man squad to trial as the Joeys. "I was wrapped about being selected to trial for the Joeys. I thought I had a good Nationals, and hearing my name

The youth chain in NSW just gets stronger and stronger every year. After the recent Nationals held at Parklea, many young stars emerged as future Australian players and one such player was Steve Baveas.

The 16-year-old was part of the Under 16 NSW state side, also being named as vice captain, who unfortunately lost in the Grand-Final to Queensland 1-0.

"It was disappointing losing in the final, especially the way we did. I felt as though we had the chances to win the game, but it was not our day," said the young lad.

Losing in the final was a setback for Baveas, but a huge pick me up was then awarded to the young star by being named as one of the 30 players in contention to make the new Joeys squad. "I was gutted about losing the final, but it was a huge honour being named in the 30 man squad for the Joeys. It came out of the blue and hopefully if all goes well, I'll be in the final squad," said Steve.

Having played friendly matches against Sydney Olympic, Northern Spirit, Marconi and Parramatta Power youth sides, the center midfielder believes that he is a chance for the squad.

"I've been putting my all in the recent camp that we just had, and did the best that I could in the friendly games we played. I hope that all goes well and I have a spot in the Joeys squad," said the confident Girraween High student.

Steve has also been part of the NSW Institute of Sport scheme that has lifted his game immensely. "The ITC has really showed me how to be a leader, and also fine tuned my skills and made me focus a lot more as a player. It's a big step for any young player," said Baveas.

However, Steve has Blacktown City Demons to thank, as his four years at the club was pretty much the starting point of his career.

"Ever since I joined Blacktown in the Under 13's, I knew that this club would help me out. Through my four seasons, I've been looked after and I know that this club set my standards out in football," said Steve.

The 16-year-old has already played a first grade with champions Blacktown last year

being announced was a real buzz," said a happy Studman.

Already attending two Joeys camps, the Sydney Olympic star has a big chance in making the squad even though he is a year underage. "Playing against older players really brings out the best in you as a player," said Brett.

The Kempsey born star who moved to Sydney at the age of 14 said that since his transition from country soccer to city soccer, the move has been very good. "Playing against tougher, bigger opponents and being more professional is what appealed to me and that is why I made the move to Sydney and joined Sydney Olympic," said the young star.

The 'red head assassin' was also part of this year's dream team of the Under 15 Sydney Olympic side that took out almost everything. "It was a good year for me both state and club-wise as I was part of championship winning teams," said Studman.

At the tender age of 15, not only did Brett have English offers from Coventry and a big brother scholarship with either Ipswich or Middlesbrough which he turned down, but the young gun also has a Nike sponsorship. "Nike support me with soccer boots and clothes as its part of the IMG group who manage me," said 'Studs'.

Turning down English offers, Brett has opted to stay in Australia, and has signed a dual registration with the famous youth setup of the NSW Institute of Sport, alongside being with Sydney Olympic.

"I've signed dual-registration with the NSWIS as I feel as though they could fine tune my skills even more," said the Endeavour Sports High student.

against Fairfield, which he recalls as a 'day he'll never forget'.

"It was a huge buzz playing first grade for the Demons last year. I know it was an experience I'll never forget," said the Blacktown lad.

Steve embarked on an experience he will always remember when he played for the Under 15's of Blacktown two seasons ago. "We had just finished our Nationals in Canberra which we had won with NSW. A couple of Blacktown boys being apart of the West Ham scheme spent two weeks training with the Hammers. It was awesome. Training with the Under 19's over there was great.



Steve Baveas: Joeys call-up beckons.

Seeing players like Di Canio, Rio Ferdinand and Joe Cole was an experience I will never forget. It was like I was at home as I stayed with Aussies Steve Laurie, Michael Ferrante and Richie Garcia who are in the Hammers squad.

Overall an experience I will never forget, and that is what I'm aiming for in my future, playing professional," said the lucky young gun.

Aligned with the NSW Institute, Steve has had numerous offers from rival National League clubs but vows that he just wants to prove himself on the pitch and play good soccer.

"I really want to play to the best of my ability and hopefully with all the work I put in at the NSW Institute, a Joeys call-up beckons," said Steve.

Steven Baveas

AT A GLANCE

Full Name: Steven Baveas
Club: NSWIS / Blacktown City
DOB: 7/4/84
Left/Right: Right
Eye Colour: Brown
Hair Colour: Brown
Height: 169cm
Weight: 58kg
Positions Played: Centre Midfield

THE STATS & FACTS

Clubs Played At:
U13-U16 Blacktown City Demons
Spent 1 year at the NSW Institute
Age Started Playing Soccer: 3

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight To Date: Selected in the Joeys train on squad and winning the Nationals in the U15's in Canberra.
Ambition: To play at the highest level and make the Joeys squad
Words Of Advice: "Train the way you play"
Best Advice Received: "Don't lose sight of your goals" (Father, Kerry)

PERSONALITY INSIGHT

Favourite Actor: Jim Carey
Favourite Actress: Jennifer Love Hewitt
Top 5 Movies:
- Road Trip
- American Pie
- Final Destination
- Gladiator
- Rocky IV
Favourite Comedian: Aaron Robertson (Footy Show)
If you could be a character from any movie who would you be? Russell Crowe in the Gladiator
Best ever concert: Grinspoon live at Penrith
5 Cd's You Couldn't Do Without?
- Grinspoon - Easy
- Red Hot Chili Peppers - Californication
- Limp Bizkit - Significant Other
- Korn
- Pennywise - About Time
Favourite TV show: The Footy Show
Favourite Cartoon Character: Fred Flinstone
Dinner Party For 6, Who Would You Invite?
- Jennifer Love Hewitt
- Aaron Robertson
- Brad Pittler
- Andrew Johns
- Mark Bosnich
- Diego Maradona
Entrée: Calamari
Main Course: Steak & Chips
Dessert: Chocolate Mudcake and Ice-Cream

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player: Paolo Di Canio
Favourite Overseas Team: Newcastle
Most Admired Australian Player (Local Based): Dave Clarkson
Most Admired Australian Player (Overseas Based): Mark Bosnich
Most Admired Defender: Jaap Stam
Most Admired Midfielder: Zinedine Zidane
Most Admired Striker: Paolo Di Canio
Most Admired Goalkeeper: Mark Bosnich
Hardest Opponent (Played): Darren McDonald

SOCCER WOMAN

USA THUMP BRAZIL

USA	4
BRAZIL	0

In their last tuneup match before the Olympics and their first test without Michelle Akers, the highly favoured US team flexed their muscle to over power South American rival Brazil 4-0 last week.

Mia Hamm scored twice and captain Julie Foudy and Joy Fawcett added goals before 26,853 fans at Spartan Stadium in San Jose, a sellout crowd and the largest to watch the U.S. team play this season.

"I've got no complaints," U.S. coach April Heinrichs said. "It think it's the perfect tuneup game for us. They bring out the best in us. At the same time, they're dangerous. We took a risk playing Brazil 13 days before Sydney."

The shutout was the 13th in a calendar year for Siri Mullinix, one more than the previous record of 12 by Briana Scurry.

The 1999 World Cup champions are 22-4-7 this year as they prepare to defend their 1996 gold medal.

"This team has worked really hard," Hamm said. "A game like this has to

make us feel good."

The United States has beaten Brazil in eight straight matches (7-0-1) dating to 1997, including the semifinal on the way to the 1999 World Cup title.

Brazilian captain Sissi said the U.S. team's longer style of play took her team out of its game and forced little mistakes.

"We like to play more with the ball on the ground," she said.

Shannon McMillan set up Foudy's

goal in the 13th minute, her crosskick from the right side finding Foudy in a crowd just outside the box. Foudy headed it past the outstretched hands of a diving Andreia.

Fawcett made it 2-0 in the 59th minute by deflecting a shot on goal by Lorrie Fair from the top of the box.

Hamm capped the scoring with two goals three minutes apart. She knocked her first one in with the left side of her

head, soaring into the air to deflect a pass from Cindy Parlow. Then Hamm faked Andreia to the grass in front of the goal and angled a shot past a sprawling defender for her 125th international goal.

"The effort by everyone tonight and definitely the goal by Julie in the first 15 minutes definitely helped our momentum," Hamm said, icing her left knee before heading to the team bus.

The Americans, who won every tournament they have entered this year, will try to keep the momentum going in Sydney.

It won't be easy. Their first game will be on Sept. 14 against Norway, which handed the U.S. team three of its four defeats in 2000. Three days later, the United States will face World Cup runner-up China.

"It's going to be difficult," Hamm said. "But that's the way we want it."

They'll also be challenged by the absence of the 34-year-old Akers, who announced last week that shoulder injuries would keep her from competing in another Olympics. She was replaced on the roster by Michelle French, a 22-year-old All-American from the University of Portland. She did not play



Julie Foudy and Mia Hamm enjoy the win.



The US celebrate their victory.

FRENCH REPLACES AKERS IN US SQUAD

Defender Michelle French was picked to replace Michelle Akers on the U.S. women's Olympic soccer team.

Coach April Heinrichs chose French, 22, four days after Akers announced her retirement from international soccer. Akers has been plagued by a shoulder injury that needs surgery for the second time.

French, one of four alternates picked for the Olympics on Aug. 10, now moves onto the 18-player squad. She is a four-year captain of the U.S. under-21 team, leading that squad to Nordic Cup titles the last two summers.

French has nine international appearances with the national team and can play outside back, central defence or in midfield.

"Obviously, it's a completely unfortunate situation that Michelle was unable to play in the Olympics, and I know that everyone will miss her a lot

on and off the field," French said. "I really don't see myself as replacing her, because you can't replace one of the best players ever."



April Heinrichs: US coach named Akers replacement.

"You never want anyone to get hurt, so I feel extremely fortunate to be getting this opportunity. I never stopped working hard just in case a miracle hap-

pened and I was selected, so I feel I'm ready to contribute and play any role that April asks of me. Really, I'm still numb. ... I

But — quick — who was the leading scorer for the U.S. women's soccer team at last year's World Cup? Need help? She's also the one who scored the goal that won the gold medal game at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. She's also played beside Hamm regularly for five years and has probably surpassed her more famous striking partner as the most dangerous scorer in the world.

Just don't look for her on too many magazine covers.

She's Tiffany Milbrett, whose 155 international appearances have produced 79 goals to rank her fourth all-time among the U.S. women as she and her teammates head to Sydney to defend their gold medal.

Sure, fans of the team know Milbrett, and the girls who line the fences after games screaming for autographs know and worship the 27-year-old forward along with the rest of their heroes, but the Portland, Ore., native

Tiffany Milbrett: US UNSUNG HERO

Brandi Chastain made the magazine covers when she took off her jersey. Mia Hamm has the commercials with Michael Jordan. Michelle Akers, an inspiration to warriors everywhere, had the first shoe contract.

But — quick — who was the leading scorer for the U.S. women's soccer team at last year's World Cup?

Need help? She's also the one who scored the goal that won the gold medal game at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. She's also played beside Hamm regularly for five years and has probably surpassed her more famous striking partner as the most dangerous scorer in the world.

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Sure, fans of the team know Milbrett, and the girls who line the fences after games screaming for autographs know and worship the 27-year-old forward along with the rest of their heroes, but the Portland, Ore., native

has to rank last in getting her popular due in proportion to what she has contributed to the team.

"She definitely deserves more," Hamm said. "We don't look past her. We know what she does for our team day-in, day-out. We know how dangerous she is, and I hope she knows how much we appreciate it. That may not give her the endorsements off the field, but I hope she knows that we give her as much endorsement as we can."

The five-foot-two Milbrett has often dreamed of playing pro basketball, and she moves as deftly as a point guard as she scampers smoothly with the ball at her feet before exploding a drive past a goalkeeper.

As such a great talent on a hugely popular team, Milbrett's agent, Michelle Burnett, ponders why her client hasn't been able to cash in on fame and fortune as well as, say, Chastain.

"That's kind of what we've struggled with, and she's questioned that," Burnett said. "Brandi, I feel, was definitely a fluke, getting the final goal, taking her top off. [Tiffany] was the leading scorer in the World Cup for the U.S. team. She knows it'll happen, the more she's out there, and the more

people get to know her personality."

That personality has wholesome written all over it. Snippets from Milbrett's life include a couple of seasons picking strawberries while growing up in Oregon, and a mother who played soccer and inspired her daughter to do the same. One of Milbrett's favourite pastimes: making her own lentil soup.

Of course, lentil soup and a goal to win the gold with no live TV in Atlanta doesn't sell as good as taking a top off after scoring the winning penalty kick at the most watched U.S. soccer game ever.

"Brandi had 40 million-plus in the United States, and we didn't have a single soul," Milbrett said. "The difference is that the American culture really latched on to our team since '96. She had the luck of the draw, and nothing is so exciting as a penalty shoot-out. She had TV on her side."

"But whatever the case, we have a gold medal around our neck, we have a world championship around our neck. It doesn't matter who sticks the ball in the back of the net."

Before anyone starts passing the hat, it should be noted that Milbrett made "low- to

mid-six figures" for endorsements and appearances in the aftermath of the World Cup, according to Burnett. That's not in the major leagues with Hamm or Chastain, but it allows Milbrett to keep a healthy perspective.

"It's very fickle," Milbrett said. "You just play your game, and the rest of that stuff is out of your hands. The way that I look at it is that I want to be a positive influence in the way that people look at women's soccer. I don't know what that means in terms of celebrity status and that kind of stuff, but I want to move young girls and boys and society in the right direction, so that women are placed equally with men."

Very much in her prime, Milbrett should have many more chances to achieve that frozen time moment her fans think is so deserved. Certainly, this time, if her goal wins the gold medal, more people will notice.

"She scores goals that are absolutely unbelievable," Hamm said. "If people

don't know who she is, then I hope the people I'm talking about are the opposition. She destroys a lot of teams by herself. It's definitely past due, and I think people are catching on."



Premier League Loyalty bonus for big three

Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool will not be prevented from entering talks over a breakaway European super-league as long as they guarantee their commitment to the Premiership.

Two years ago, the three clubs were forced to give written undertakings to the Premier League that they would not have any contact with a rebel competition planned by Italian-based Media Partners.

That scheme fell through after UEFA caved in to the demands of Europe's biggest clubs and created the new expanded Champions League format, guaranteeing even more money for the teams involved.

But while the pledges made by United, Liverpool and Arsenal are still in place, it is understood they may be allowed to enter talks with representatives of Spanish communications giant Telefonica over revised plans for a lucrative league that would run parallel to domestic competitions across Europe.

Officially, the Premier League and its clubs are bonded to UEFA's plans and League spokesman Phil French said: 'Our clubs are committed to working with



Gerard Houllier: Liverpool boss.

UEFA and playing in the Champions League.

We have the strongest domestic league in the world and our clubs are 100 per cent committed to that as well.'

But it is understood that, privately, intimations have gone out that the trio would not be barred from listening to the

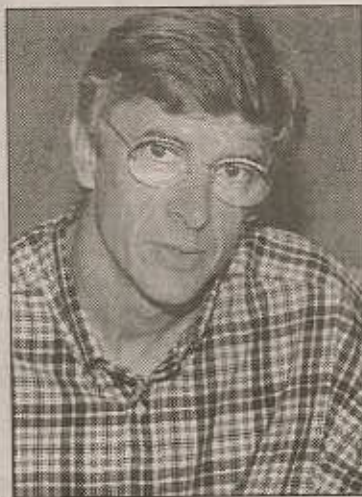
approaches from Telefonica as long as the League was informed and all three clubs confirmed they have no intention of turning their backs on the Premiership.

One source said: 'We're not convinced that these plans will get off the ground. But if the clubs are committed to playing in the Premier League and wanted to explore a competition similar to the Champions League, I don't think there would be too many problems.'

Telefonica began discussions with Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, the German Kirsch group and Canal+ over funding for a 16-club competition that would be screened on pay-per-view channels.

The Spanish company targeted the three English clubs along with Juventus, Milan and Inter, Bayern Munich, Real Madrid and Barcelona — all members of the G14 group of the richest and most powerful clubs in Europe. Those plans appeared to have fallen into abeyance following a boardroom coup at Telefonica.

But last week Bayern general manager Karl-Heinz Rummenigge gave his broad support for the possibility of a breakaway that could come into operation in 2003 by



Arsene Wenger: Arsenal Manager.

suggesting the proposals had some merit.

Telefonica is proposing that clubs in its competition would earn around £2million for every win and earlier this month, senior executives had talks in Milan with representatives of Media Partners — backed by Milan owner and would-be Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi

— to compare models.

The next step is likely to be formal approaches to the three English teams and while United's new chief executive Peter Kenyon maintains the Old Trafford club has had no direct contact so far, the implicit lapsing of the Premier League's embargo may see talks take place.

One problem would be the Football Association's reluctance to countenance any competition which takes place without UEFA's permission and the real threat of the clubs involved and their players being banned from international football by FIFA.

UEFA president Lennart Johansson was dismissive of the proposals. He said: 'What Telefonica is talking about is nothing more than a commercial enterprise. We have sporting criteria which are important. There will be no real interest in a competition with no promotion or relegation and I don't think there's any support for it.'

'I have been hearing all about these plans for rival leagues for 10 years. I will not be worried until I see the plans as a fact.'

POPESCU RETIRES

Romanian international defender Gheorghe Popescu said last week he was retiring from the national team because at the age of 32 he could no longer continue playing for both Romania and his Turkish side Galatasaray.

Popescu told a news conference that his decision was final and that after 104 caps it was time to call it a day.

He is one of three Romanians to win a century of caps — the others are Ladislau Boloni and his brother-in-law Gheorghe Hagi, who confirmed his retirement from the international team after Euro 2000.

Earlier this month, Popescu turned down a call from Romania's newly-appointed coach Ladislau Boloni to play in the upcoming World Cup qualifiers for the 2002 finals.

He denied reports in the Romanian press that he was quitting because the authorities had refused to grant him purchasing rights of a hotel in a mountain resort.

He rejected those allegations at the news conference adding: 'I consider that at my age I cannot continue playing for both Galatasaray and Romania.'

Popescu played 104 matches for Romania, scoring 15 goals. He made his debut in a friendly against Albania in 1988 and made his last appearance during Euro 2000.

Although he was outstanding at the back he could also be dangerous going forwards and once scored four goals for Romania in a World Cup qualifier against Liechtenstein in 1997.

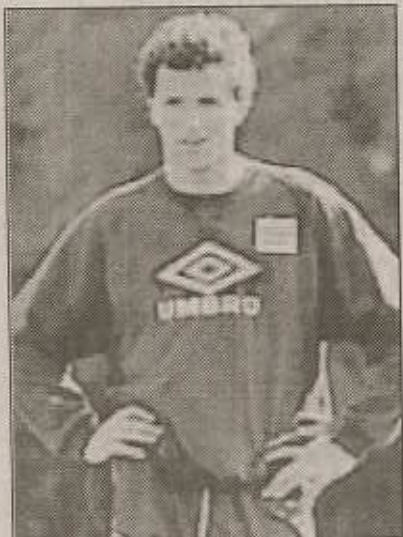
He was named Romania's Footballer of the Year six times between 1989 and 1996 and even now is enjoying some of the best moments of his career.

He scored the decisive penalty in Galatasaray's 4-1 shoot-out win over Arsenal in the UEFA Cup final in May and was also outstanding when Galatasaray beat Real

Madrid 2-1 to win the European Supercup in Monaco last week.

He began his career at Universitatea Craiova in 1984 and later moved to PSV Eindhoven in 1990.

He spent a year with Tottenham Hotspur in 1994-95 and is still regarded with great affection by Spurs fans — not only for scoring the winning goal against Arsenal in the home league match during his season at the club — but also for scoring the penalty that condemned them to defeat in the UEFA Cup final in Copenhagen in May.



Gheorghe Popescu: International end.

After leaving Spurs he went to Barcelona and went on to win the European Cup Winners Cup with them in 1997.

His last club move was to Galatasaray where he has won three national titles and enhanced his reputation as one of the greatest all-time Romanian players.



Christian Ziege

The row between Liverpool and Middlesbrough over the transfer of German international Christian Ziege took a new twist last

Row continues as Ziege signs contract with Liverpool

week when Liverpool confirmed he signed a contract with them over the weekend.

But despite Ziege effectively becoming a Liverpool player he cannot play for them as Middlesbrough have yet to release his registration papers.

Middlesbrough are still unhappy at the way their Premier League rivals went about the capture of the 28-year-old, who joined them at the start of last season for 4 million pounds (\$10m) from AC Milan.

But once it became known

there was a clause in his Middlesbrough contract allowing the German to leave if a rival club bid 5.5 million pounds (\$13.75m) for his services, Liverpool matched the required fee.

Boro did not want to let the former AC Milan star go and turned down the bid but Ziege made it clear he wanted to join Gerard Houllier's side.

Liverpool spokesman Ian Cotton confirmed: 'He has signed a contract with Liverpool.'

Now the Merseyside club are trying to secure his registration papers and are adamant they will pay Middlesbrough 5.5 million pounds stated in Ziege's contract.

Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson has declared he wants 8 million pounds (\$20m) for Ziege though and the deal is far from complete.

Ziege made 33 league and cup appearances for Boro last season scoring seven times and was named the club's Player of the Year. He has yet to play for Middlesbrough this season following the uncertainty over his future.

Bjornebye changes his mind over international retirement

Norwegian Stig Inge Bjornebye has decided to shelve his plans to quit international football.

The 30-year-old Blackburn defender announced his retirement 18 months ago but returned for Euro 2000 claiming it was a one-off to help out during an injury crisis.

But Bjornebye admitted last week the tournament rekindled his love

affair with the international game and he now plans to continue playing for his country. He made two appearances in Euro 2000, one as a substitute and has now won 73 caps.

Explaining his change of mind, he said: 'When I came back into the Norway squad recently I discussed that with the manager and he said he hoped I hadn't just returned for Euro 2000.'

'I personally didn't think that would be fair on the others anyway so I guess I'll go for it now.'

'When I retired a year and a half ago it was a very hectic programme and we were having another baby as well.'

'But that's all gone well, my kids are growing up well, and I'm enjoying being back in the squad again.'



WORLD



ITALY

Milan's Jose Mari still an Atletico fan

Former Atletico Madrid striker Jose Mari Romero, who left the club last season to join AC Milan, has done his bit to help out his old employers by signing up as a season-ticket holder.

Jose Mari, who is back in Spain for training with the country's Olympic soccer squad, took advantage of the trip to pick up his membership card at the club,

who were relegated to division two last season.

"If I ever come back to Spain it will be to join Atletico," he said. "It's my home."

His former team mate Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, the Dutch international now with Chelsea, also became a season-ticket holder before leaving Spain.



Jose Mari Romero: Still a fan.

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

The good news for Inter and Italy is that Christian Vieri is back on deck. While he missed Italy's weekend game in Budapest against Hungary, the tall striker played for Inter in a 12-0 win over an amateur team in a friendly game.

Vieri has been out of action for the best part of three months and his return is a welcome sight for both Inter and Italy. Italy did miss his finishing in the European Championships in June.

Watch Out Australia here come the Italians! The Italian Olympic team has been announced and it includes some real stars. They are defending European champions and are coached the former legendary midfielder, Marco Tardelli.

Tardelli had some more good news on the weekend when his Italian Under 21 team (this is not the Italian Olympic team) defeated Hungary 3-0.

There are no over-aged players in the Italian squad but several of these players are in the senior 'Azzurri' team. The players that are worth keeping an eye on are: Christian Abbiati, Gennaro Gattuso, Massimo Ambrosini, Gianluca Zambrotta, Roberto Baroni and Andrea Pirlo.

With the exception of Pirlo, the others were all part of Giovanni Trapattoni's senior squad for the World Cup qualifying game against Hungary in Budapest over the weekend.

Abbiati is now considered the number two goalkeeper in Italy behind Francesco Toldo and this is even allowing for Parma's, Gianluigi Buffon, being injured. Abbiati is 23 years old and is the AC Milan 'keeper having forced his way into the starting lineup after nearly two years when Sebastiano Rossi was forced out through lack of form and lack of self-discipline.

Gattuso is on the fringe of the senior national team and is now in his second year at AC Milan.

The 22-year-old midfielder had stints in the Serie A with Salernitana and Perugia and also spent about 18 months in Scotland with Glasgow Rangers.

Ambrosini is a 23-year-old midfielder who is also part of the senior national squad.

Ambrosini is into his fourth year at AC Milan and is most definitely one to look out for at the Olympics.

Zambrotta is also a star of the senior national team and is currently into his second year at Juventus.

Zambrotta is a very classy midfielder who previously played in the Serie A with Bari before being snapped up by the Turin giants.

At 23, Zambrotta is an established star in Italy and should prove his value on the world stage here at the Olympics.

Baroni is a 23-year-old midfielder/playmaker who plays for defending Serie A champions, Lazio. He has also broken into the senior national team and is currently into his fourth year at Lazio.

And finally there is Pirlo, an attacking midfielder or striker for Inter. The 22-year-old is into his third at Inter and should prove to be a real star at the Olympics.

Pirlo was one of Italy's main attacking weapons when they won the European title earlier this year and in the Serie A he should compliment Vieri nicely at Inter in attack.

The UEFA Champions League, which gets under way properly next week, has drawn a real 'mixed bag' for Italian teams.

Lazio, rated by many as favourites and searching for their first Champions League title, are in Group B along with Arsenal, Sparta Prague and Shakhtar Donetsk. It would appear that Arsenal will be their most difficult opponent.

Juventus are in Group E and surely must be favourites in this group which contains Panathinaikos, Deportivo La Coruna and Hamburg SV.

AC Milan are in Group H and have a very tough draw with Barcelona, Leeds Utd and Besiktas also in their group. Milan are one of four teams (Ajax Amsterdam, Bayern Munich and Real Madrid are the other three) which can now wear on their shirts the UEFA Badge of Distinction because of their outstanding record in this tournament. They have won it in 1963, 69, 89, 90 and 94.

Italy name Olympic squad

Italy's under-21 coach Marco Tardelli has been forced to leave promising Fiorentina midfielder Marco Rossi out of his 18-man squad for the Olympics.

Rossi, regarded as one of the best young players in Italy, said he wanted to stay with his club to play in the UEFA Cup.

"This is entirely my decision. It has nothing to do with (Fiorentina coach Fatih) Terim or the club and certainly not Tardelli," said Rossi, who helped Italy win the European under-21 crown in June.

"It was great to be at the European championship but now I want to think only about Fiorentina. The UEFA Cup starts soon and then there's the Italian Cup too."

Fiorentina face Tirol Innsbruck of Austria in the first round of the UEFA Cup on September 14 and 28 and will play in the third round of the Italian Cup next month.

AC Milan provide four players, Inter Milan three and Juventus two to Italy's squad.

The Italian league season starts on October 1, the final day of the Olympics. Italy face hosts Australia, Honduras and Nigeria in the group stage of the Olympic soccer competition.

SQUAD:

Goalkeepers:

Christian Abbiati (AC Milan), Morgan De Sanctis (Udinese), Cristiano Lupatelli (AS Roma)

Defenders:

Alessandro Grandoni (Sampdoria), Luca Mezzano (Chievo), Marco Zanchi (Juventus), Matteo Ferrari and Bruno Cirillo (both Inter Milan), Claudio Rivalto (Perugia)

Midfielders:

Gennaro Gattuso and Massimo Ambrosini (both AC Milan), Roberto Baroni (Lazio), Gianluca Zambrotta (Juventus), Ighli Vannucchi (Salernitana), Cristiano Zanetti (AS Roma), Genarra Scarlatro (Ravenna), Simone Perrotta (Bari), Fabio Firmani (Vicenza)

Forwards:

Gianni Comandini (AC Milan), Nicola Ventola (Atalanta Bergamo), Andrea Pirlo (Inter Milan), Massimo Margiotta (Udinese).



Marco Tardelli: The Italian coach stuck with his Euro 2000 troops.

MALDINI EQUALS ZOFF'S RECORD



Paolo Maldini: Record equal.

Paolo Maldini equalled Dino Zoff's record of 112 appearances for Italy when he took the field against Hungary in a World Cup European group eight qualifier over the weekend.

The 32-year-old AC Milan defender made his international debut in a friendly against Yugoslavia on March 31, 1988.

He has been a regular at left back in the Italian team ever since, playing in three World Cup final tournaments.

He was a member of the team coached by Zoff which reached the final of Euro 2000, losing to France by a "golden goal".

Zoff, who resigned as Italy coach after Euro 2000, was Italy's goalkeeper from 1968 to 1983.



Dino Zoff: His record will soon be broken.

Italy kick off their World Cup qualifying campaign - Page 30

ESNAIDER OUT FOR SIX WEEKS

Juventus's Argentine striker Juan Esnaider will be out of action for up to six weeks with a hamstring injury, the Italian first division club said last week.

Esnaider, who missed the bulk of last season through injury, played a full part in the club's pre-season preparations but will now miss September's Champions League fixtures and the start of the Italian league season in October.



WORLD

ENGLAND

England spoil French farewell party

France	1
England	1

England spoiled the farewell party for French soccer stars Didier Deschamps and Laurent Blanc at the Stade de France over the weekend when they held world and European champions France to a 1-1 draw in their friendly international.

Deschamps, who led France to both the 1998 World Cup and 2000 European championship, left the field to a standing ovation early in the second half, along with defensive stalwart Blanc.

Both men decided to quit the international game after France's Euro 2000 win over Italy two months ago.

"It was special and maybe I realised that too late," said Deschamps. "I'm going to miss it enormously but I'm content to go out tonight. There is sufficient talent in

this team that it can cope without us."

Blanc said he had felt very emotional when he left the field for the last time in a French jersey.

"For me this was a match of great emotion," Blanc said.

"I'm not showing it but it is very, very strong inside. I could not dream of a better farewell, in this stadium in front of the country who invented football.

"I was thinking about a lot of things when I left the field — but my career goes on."

Deschamps, 31 and the veteran of 103 internationals, will continue to play club soccer for Valencia and the 34-year-old Blanc, who pulled on the French jersey 97 times, will play on for Inter Milan.

French coach Roger Lemerre said: "The pair of them have made a very special contribution and it will be difficult for the French team to get the same results without them as we did with them."



Zinedine Zidane gets around England's Nick Barmby.

Goalkeeper Fabien Barthez, who missed the match through injury, said the pair could have left too soon.

"It will be strange without them,"

Barthez said. "I feel they could have stayed longer because for me, on the pitch, they are still 20 years old."

ENGLAND BACK ON TRACK - KEEGAN

England, who held world champions France to a 1-1 draw in a friendly over the weekend, are back on track after their Euro 2000 debacle, coach Kevin Keegan said.

Substitute Michael Owen, angered at being left out of the starting line-up, grabbed a late equaliser after being set up by fellow replacement Keiron Dyer and Keegan said the draw was no more

than England deserved.

"It was a gutsy performance and we deserved to get something out of the match," said Keegan despite his players being given the runaround for much of the second half.

England crashed out of the first round of the Euro 2000 tournament that France won two months ago and Keegan said the draw was a morale-booster ahead of next month's 2002 World Cup qualifier against Germany.

"We needed to take a step up from Euro 2000 and we did that," Keegan said. "To have come away with nothing tonight would have been a travesty.

"Even when we went 1-0 down I still thought we'd get something out of it.

"It is the springboard we were looking for. We were playing the best team in the world and we can go on from here."

Keegan said he was

pleased his players had stuck to their tasks and repeatedly passed the ball between themselves.

"My players had a lot of pride and passion and

Michael wanted to make a point," he said, "I spoke to him about why he was left out but he went out there and answered me."



France's Youri Djorkaeff (left) and England's Martin Keown tangle for position.



Lone striker: England's Andy Cole.

MURPHY LAW

By Julian Murphy

If the team you support is not gracing the top flight you can forget about seeing any of their games on television. Definitely no live appearances on cable and no highlights on the weekly round up shows. Yet, in this day and age it is still possible to get all the latest on your favourite club via that technological masterpiece called the internet.

When your team is languishing outside the top 20 it is difficult to get too excited about the media saturated Premier League. Exciting and competitive matches will generally quench the football thirst.

The mighty Crystal Palace are now well and truly entrenched as a Division One struggler and will probably be so for quite some time. As a result, I find myself taking a rather warped view of the goings on in the Premiership. This is largely thanks to the two fantasy XI's that I have entered in various competitions.

In normal circumstances a Chelsea visit to Bradford would have me hoping that the Bantams would upset the London silver tails (such as the recent 2-0 victory). Not so anymore. The score line means that I unexpectedly lose valuable points as Marcel Desailly is one of my stoppers.

After the results come out each Sunday morning I find myself trawling match reports on the net looking for names, not wins or losses. West Ham wins, who cares? Di Canio volleys home, YES! Leeds keep Everton goal less, ta very much, three points for both Ian Harte and Nigel Martyn. There is the odd gem too.

Charlton's Mark Kinsella picks up a goal and an assist against Manchester City.

Didn't see that coming.

I'll tell you what, I think it is easier to be a fantasy manager if your crap team relieves you of any personal involvement. Without any passionate feelings towards a team or player it is possible to operate, John Gregory-like, with a heart of stone.

A few years ago the industrious 'Murphy's Maulers' were challenging for honours as the season turned the corner and in to the home straight. Injury problems and a cash shortage led me to draft in Palace's Andy Linighan to shore up my defence. I had faith that the Palace veteran would do a job for me. A couple of terrible drubbings later, the Mauler's slipped from the leading pack never to be sighted again.

But what if the following happened? You had been an astute fantasy gaffer all season and with a round to play you were on the brink of winning the title. At the same time, the team you had supported since you were a nipper needed to win at Manchester United to stay up. An Andy Cole brace will win you the grand prize of \$50,000, pay off your debts and possibly convince your girlfriend to hang around your no good self a little longer. It will also consign your lifelong love to the oft-forgotten blood house that is Division One.

If the big man upstairs allowed you a hand, what would you choose? Mmmmmmm.

It's actually pretty easy isn't it? Nothing is more important than football and nothing is worse than relegation.

They say that a week is a long time in football. Last week, in a roundabout way, I wagged my finger at Arsenal's Patrick Vieira for his petulant behaviour in his side's first two games of the new season. Within 48 hours he had vindicated himself in my eyes. His words off the field, as well as his deeds on it, proved how much of a professional he is.

Whilst many of those close to the man in question shook their heads in disgust at his 'poor treatment', the French international confirmed his commitment to his club and his desire to improve his footballing reputation. He backed this up with a stunning man of the match performance against Charlton in the 5-3 victory at Highbury. Hats off big man.



PSV Eindhoven and Man United go head to head

Don't Be So Ruud

Van Nistelrooy saga continues as Ferguson gets a serve from PSV boss

It was only five minutes after the draw that the first tackle of this year's Champions League was made.

The victim was Sir Alex Ferguson, who found himself confronted by PSV Eindhoven president Harry Van Raaij.

But instead of their teams' upcoming home and away meetings, the subject was the one which had exercised both men for the past week - Ruud Van Nistelrooy.

Van Raaij's anger at Ferguson for making a public offer to Van Nistelrooy to join in some of United's training sessions had simmered all week.

This after Fergie's £18mil-lion bid for the PSV striker was scuppered by his cruciate ligament injury last May.

At the height of the dispute, the PSV president had telephoned his opposite number at Old Trafford, Peter Kenyon. 'How would you like it if I invited David Beckham to come and train with us for a month?' he demanded.

This was his first chance to confront Ferguson in person, although the United manager had to peer at Van Raaij's lapel badge to realise who was assailing him, before breaking in with the words:

'You're the man who has been talking about me.'

A few minutes later, the pair agreed to differ, burying the hatchet but leaving marks which may take a while to heal.

Van Raaij declared the dispute was now in the past. 'For me the incident is over,'

he said. 'I wanted to speak to Ferguson and I've done that now.'

'He has his view and I have mine. We have quite different opinions but these things happen. I think any contact we have in the future should be different in tone

It was the most fragile of peace pacts and Ferguson — who, along with Bayern Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, Real Madrid's Vicente Del Bosque and Juventus trainer Carlo Ancelotti, was among the happiest men in Monaco

ing to aid him because it was a bad injury.'

Ferguson's unwillingness to admit he was in the wrong suggested any bid to resurrect the deal at a lower price might prove difficult.

Van Raaij added: 'United have not got first refusal on him and we can sell him to anybody we want who meets our valuation.'

The Dutch club may give United fans a tantalising glimpse of what they have missed out on when they travel to Old Trafford on October 18, with Van Raaij holding out the possibility that Van Nistelrooy may join the squad.

By then, however, Ferguson will be hoping his team have already gone a long way to ensuring their progress through to the second group stage.

The draw has certainly been kind to United.

Anderlecht are a long way from the side they were in the Eighties, Kiev have now lost Sergei Rebrov to Spurs as well as Andrei Shevchenko, and PSV without Van Nistelrooy lack a cutting edge.

Ferguson said: 'Anderlecht beat Porto to qualify and you have to respect that.'

'It's a good football



Ruud Van Nistelrooy: The centre of club row.

and done the right way.

'I think we got there in the end and I accept he only had Ruud's interests at heart.'

'But as the president of PSV I have to protect this club. What Ferguson did had a negative effect on the progress of Ruud's recovery.'

after also drawing Belgian side Anderlecht and Dynamo Kiev — only conceded some ground.

He said: 'We made an offer to Ruud to come to our club and PSV were not pleased that we hadn't contacted them. We wanted to talk to the player. We're try-



Alex Ferguson: Unwilling to admit being wrong.

group. PSV, Anderlecht and Kiev all have a good football tradition.

'Even without Rebrov and Shevchenko, Kiev are a club

that produces its own players. You know they will play good football. It's a long journey which is always a problem but I don't think it

will affect us.'

It was certainly a draw that ranged between the exciting and the seemingly inevitable and while Leeds fans may shudder at the prospect of meeting another Turkish side, they will surely be already planning to queue for tickets to see Barcelona and AC Milan.

Bayern, beaten finalists two years ago and defeated by Real in the semi-finals last season, would expect to progress with ease after coming out alongside Paris St-Germain, Rosenborg and Helsingborgs.

Juventus will probably dally with their customary high-wire act before emerging from a group completed by Spanish champions Deportivo La Coruna, Hamburg and Greek side Panathinaikos.

Last season's finalists Real and Valencia appear to have relatively easy tasks in winning their groups.

Rangers, despite the security problems posed by Galatasaray, will believe they have a great chance of coming through after being paired with Monaco, the weakest of the top eight seeds, and Austrians Sturm Graz.

Chelsea are Hated — Vialli tells

Chelsea manager Gianluca Vialli has claimed that his club have become hated — and hit out at the media for their treatment of the Stamford Bridge side.

Speaking after watching his team come from a goal down to claim a point against Aston Villa, he said he believed that Chelsea had 'no friends'.

He has accused the press of 'picking on' his multi-million pound squad, but hopes that he can use the situation to foster a spirit of extra determination in the Chelsea ranks.

Vialli said: 'I can take the criticism, but for the players it's sometimes difficult because we think it's not the same for everybody.'

'We have won five trophies in two and a half years, but I read that Chelsea is an under-achieving club.'

'It's not fair. We definitely have no friends around.'

'People keep picking on Chelsea for some reason, but that has got to give us more inner strength and make us try to show everybody that is wrong and unfair.'



Gianluca Vialli: "We're hated."

HUGHES FORCED TO QUIT

Southampton midfielder David Hughes has been forced to quit the game at the age of just 27 after battling in vain to recover from a long-term knee injury.

Hughes made his debut for the south coast club in 1991, but his injury problems have restricted him to only 54 league appearances since that time.

He is the third Saints player to have to quit the game through injury since the start of the season. David Howells and John Beresford have also retired.

Saints boss Glenn Hoddle said: 'I feel very sad that David has been forced to give up the game with a knee injury. He did everything possible to play again, and it's particularly sad as he is only 27. We wish him well.'

Players praise O'Neill after Rangers rout

CELTIC	6
RANGERS	2

Henrik Larsson and Chris Sutton, the Celtic strikers who helped demolish Rangers 6-2 last weekend, have handed the credit for the extraordinary Old Firm rout to new manager Martin O'Neill.

They each scored twice in the 6-2 humiliation of the Scottish champions at Parkhead, Celtic's biggest win in a league match against their Glasgow rivals for 62 years, but insisted that O'Neill is the man who deserves the praise.

Last season, Celtic finished a record 21 points behind their bitter rivals as Rangers celebrated their 11th title in 12 years, which led to coach John Barnes being sacked after just eight months and then director of football Kenny Dalglish, who took over for the last four months, having his contract terminated.

When O'Neill, who left Leicester City, was appointed in June he became the eighth manager in nine years at the former European Cup winners.

But he has quickly given a team that was accused of having no heart — they lost the previous encounter with Rangers 4-0 — a fierce new spirit, and his man-management skills have revived the careers of several players who had lost their way.

Sutton was derided as a failure after a 10.0 million pounds (\$25m) move from Blackburn Rovers to Chelsea saw him score only three goals in his year in London.

Celtic fans were sceptical when O'Neill

made Sutton, 27, his first signing, paying 6.0 million pounds (\$15m) to replace top scorer Mark Viduka who moved to Leeds United, but five league goals in four games, have proved O'Neill's declaration that "Sutton is a quality player."

The England international said: "What

Martin did at Leicester was all about work ethic and we are the same. The players get on well and there was an element against Rangers where we helped our mates out.

"Martin has created that spirit, and everyone was committed for us. That was the key."



Martin O'Neill: Credit for Celtic's re-newed spirit.

Real look to recoup Figo fee

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez is hoping to recoup the \$56 million world record transfer fee paid for Luis Figo by exploiting the player's image rights.

Perez, speaking in an interview with Eurosport, said he was confident the money paid to Barcelona for the Portuguese international would turn out to be a good piece of business.

"Nothing is cheap and nothing is expensive," Perez said when asked about the apparently extravagant signing of Figo.

"It could turn out to be cheaper to sign a player for \$96m than half that amount."

"Figo is also the first player to cede his image rights to the club, as the other new signings have also done."

"Selling those rights worldwide will be worth a lot of money. I hope that Figo will turn out to be free by the end of the six years of his contract."



Luis Figo

Lama decides to play on

Veteran goalkeeper Bernard Lama said last week that he was willing to continue as a member of the French squad through the team's 2002 World Cup defence.

Lama has been the back-up for first-choice Fabien Barthez during France's victorious 1998 World Cup and 2000 European championship campaigns.

Now 37, he told sports daily *L'Equipe* that he has no intention of following defender Laurent Blanc into international retirement.

Blanc, 34, made his final appearance for France in a friendly against England at the Stade de France over the weekend with current captain and midfielder Didier Deschamps, 31.

"If the coach doesn't want me any more I'll stay at home, but for the moment that is not the case," Lama said. "If I'm wanted, I'm available."

Lama has made 43 appearances for France since 1993, seven short of the record for a goalkeeper set by Joel Bats between 1983 and 1989.

He joined Stade Rennes during the off-season after being released by Paris St Germain and has been in outstanding form.



Bernard Lama: Still ready to turn out for France.

Anelka savours scoring

French international striker Nicolas Anelka scored his first two goals for Paris St Germain against Bastia last weekend and said he relished "the unique pleasure of the scorer".

Anelka, who has more frequently made headlines for his sullenness and various problems at Arsenal and Real Madrid over the last three seasons, was positively beaming with joy after his goals helped PSG beat Bastia 3-1.

"I badly wanted to stick one in. That's why I was chosen," he added.

"And the pleasure of the score remains unique. If you knew what a sensation you feel when the ball goes into the net," he added.

Anelka has returned to the club where he started his career after a move from Real Madrid last month and these goals were the first he had scored for PSG since then.

He had already got on the scoresheet for PSG during his first spell at the club, but he said on his website: "I had already

scored for PSG but this was like the first time."



Nicolas Anelka: Loves to score.

Scifo makes dream start at Charleroi

Just three weeks into the Belgian football season, Enzo Scifo, the country's most famous player of the past decade, has already woven a magic spell over Charleroi, the struggling club he took over in March.

Three brief months on from escaping ignominious relegation from division one, Charleroi are riding high at the top of the league, with three wins from three matches.

Unexpected early success has brought new enthusiasm in a city better known for its high unemployment and crowd trouble at June's Euro 2000.

A consortium led by Scifo took over the club in March as it languished in deep trouble, staring relegation in the face.

Charleroi only avoided the drop thanks to seven points from their last three games, including a point in the last game against champions Anderlecht.

A nervous Scifo watched that game from the stands, desperate for his new club to take at least a point, but still officially an Anderlecht player until the



Enzo Scifo: Weaving magic.

final whistle blew.

Scifo's revolution — including the appointment of former Anderlecht youth coach Manu Ferrera as coach and the sale in July of an 80 percent stake to soft drinks firm Chaudfontaine — has brought "the zebras" immediate results.

Scifo himself has already got on the scoresheet, while veteran striker Dante Brogno — brother of last year's Belgian top-scorer Toni — is top of the Belgian rankings with five goals.

But the real test of how far Charleroi have progressed will come next week, when they travel to Brussels to take on Anderlecht.

"Can we win? No, we've got to be realistic. We'll be very happy to come back with a point and perform well," Scifo said.

"Now that we have nine points, things will probably be a bit easier for us. We'll play without the slightest pressure on us."

"For the moment, we're keeping our feet firmly on the ground."

As for Scifo, he may be robbed of the chance to take on his old team mates.



2002 WORLD CUP: The Qualifiers



IRISH UNLUCKY IN DUTCH DRAW

HOLLAND	2
REP OF IRELAND	2

GROUP TWO

A thunderous blast from Giovanni van Bronckhorst and a softening of the Irish defence allowed the Dutch to claw back a two-goal deficit and draw their opening World Cup qualifier.

Van Bronckhorst's long-range shot spared home blushes and those of new coach Louis van Gaal and gives the Dutch a month's breathing space during which they will hope their many injured stars will recover.

Ireland, who have had almost a year without competitive matches, came out aggressively and eager to make amends for the past three failed Euro and World Cup qualification campaigns.

A tight defence and the solid mid-field of Roy Keane and Mark Kinsella provided a platform for Kevin Kilbane's bursts down the left flank and Robbie Keane's tireless running off front man Niall Quinn.

"It wasn't just the work effort but the manner in which we played. We

took the Dutch on at their own game and passed the ball," said Irish coach Mick McCarthy.

Ireland, whose last tournament qualification was the 1994 World Cup, took advantage of slack Dutch marking in the 21st minute, Robbie Keane heading in a Jason McAteer cross.

Then in the 65th minute McAteer sent the 10,000 travelling contingent wild as he played a one-two with Niall Quinn and thumped in with his left foot from the edge of the penalty box.

With such a platform, McCarthy was adamant the Irish should then have contained their group two opponents.

"It's a game we should have won...but I'd have taken a draw when we came here tonight," said McCarthy.

The Dutch lacked the likes of central defender Jaap Stam, bustling midfielder Edgar Davids and wingers Marc Overmars and Boudewijn Zenden. They also seemed still bowed by their agonising semifinal exit in Euro 2000. Only late in the



Ireland's Kevin Kilbane (left) holds off Holland's Paul Bosvelt. Kilbane's work down the left flank helped Ireland record a much deserved 2-2 draw in Amsterdam.

game did they find their rhythm.

Hope was rekindled when Irish disorder allowed Jeffrey Talan to head in a Ronald de Boer cross at the far post in the 71st minute. Seven minutes later Van Bronckhorst's rasp-

ing drive brought his side back. The

Dutch could then have stolen it when Patrick Kluivert was put through for a half-chance at the death, but it ended even.

SUPER SUB SAVES SPAIN

BOSNIA	1
SPAIN	2

GROUP SEVEN

A second-half volley from substitute forward Joseba Etxeberria gave Spain a hard-fought 2-1 victory against Bosnia in their World Cup qualifying group seven match.

Spain went ahead against the run of the play in the 39th minute through young Valencia midfielder Gerard who controlled a Gaizka Mendieta pass on the edge of the area with his heel, created himself space inside and blasted in just below the bar.

Hard-working Bosnia, who had several good chances in the first half through Elvir Baljic and Elvir Bolic, came back in the 41st minute with Baljic's bouncing free kick



Abelardo Fernandez in action against Bosnia.

from just outside the right side of the area.

Bosnia pressed hard in the second half but could not come back after Etxeberria's powerful 17-metre volley which went into the top left corner of Bosnian goalkeeper Adnan Guso's net.

"We were very lucky to win this game, it was a hard-won game," said Spanish coach Jose Antonio Camacho.

"Bosnia surprised us with fast play."

Danes break the ice

ICELAND	1
DENMARK	2

GROUP THREE

Striker Morten Bisgaard earned Denmark a comfortable 2-1 victory over Iceland over the weekend in their World Cup European group three qualifier.

Denmark, under new coach Morten Olsen, had control of the match and their task was made even easier when Iceland had Brynjar Bjorn Gunnarsson sent off in the 74th minute.

Iceland skipper Eyjolfur Sveinsson opened the scoring in

the 12th minute, steering home a loose ball after Danish 'keeper Peter Schmeichel failed to hold Rikhardur Dadason's header.

But Feyenoord striker Jon Dahl Tomasson levelled for the 1992 European champions in the 26th minute, drilling a low shot inside the right-hand post.

Bisgaard, who plays in Italy's Serie A for Udinese, tucked home the winner in the 49th minute following a Danish counter-attack.

Dennis Rommedahl saw his shot parried by Icelandic 'keeper Arni Gautar Arason but Bisgaard snapped up the rebound.

CROATIA DELIGHTED WITH 0-0 DRAW

BELGIUM	0
CROATIA	0

GROUP SIX

World Cup 1998 semi-finalists Croatia left a soaking wet Brussels on Saturday well satisfied with a goalless draw from their opening Group Six World Cup qualifier against Belgium.

On an evening rich in endeavour but low on clear-cut scoring chances,



Belgium's Marc Wilmots (left) sends in a shot against Croatia.

it was the home side who looked more likely to break the deadlock.

But powerful skidding drives from midfield duo Yves Vanderhaeghe and Marc Wilmots, and a glancing header from Emile Mpenza were beaten out by keeper Stipe Pletikosa.

"We're very happy," said Croatian coach Miroslav Blazevic, adding: "This match only lacked goals. Otherwise it had everything football can

offer."

Despite some good work, Pletikosa twice almost gifted Belgium a winner with ill-considered rushes off his line, most comically after 65 minutes when a wall of defenders was left to block a powerful shot from Emile Mpenza. Belgian coach Robert Waseige admitted he was disappointed his team could not take maximum points at home against the group favourites.



Germany's Mehmet Scholl (left) holds off Marinos Ouzounidis

Galant Greeks downed by Germans

GERMANY	2
GREECE	0

GROUP NINE

Sebastian Deisler scored his first goal for Germany to help them to a 2-0 victory over Greece in their opening qualifier for the 2002 World Cup finals.

The 20-year-old Hertha Berlin midfielder, winning his eighth cap, struck from nine metres in the 17th minute of the Germans' first competitive match since their shock elimination from Euro 2000 in the group stage last June.

Greek libero Marinos Ouzounidis completed Germany's win by deflecting an effort from attacking midfielder Mehmet Scholl into his own net 15 minutes from time.

Greece, who failed to qualify for both Euro 2000 and the 1998 World Cup finals, came close to scoring on several occasions, notably when playmaker Vasilis

Tsartas hit the post with a fierce shot from 25 metres in the 22nd minute.

New Germany head coach Rudi Voeller made no changes to the team who convincingly beat Spain 4-1 in a friendly last month in his first match in charge.

The 1990 World Cup striker, who was appointed in the wake of the three-times world champions' disappointing Euro 2000 campaign, could only be satisfied with the result but a shaky display in the second half reminded him he still had plenty of work to do.

"We knew it would not be easy," Voeller said. "We were aware that Greece were a strong team and they proved it."

Greece created a number of chances early however they were dealt a huge blow when Deisler fired home after collecting a header from Marco Bode.

The Greek side woke up after conceding the goal, earning their best chance in the first half five minutes later with playmaker Vasilis Tsartas hitting the post with a violent long-range drive.

In the second half the Germans looked clumsy in defence, confirming they had a long way to go to recapture their place in the world's elite.

Only a string of brilliant saves from Oliver Kahn, who wore the captain's armband as a convalescent Oliver Bierhoff was left on the bench, deprived the visitors from scoring.

"We find it difficult to maintain a high pace for 90 minutes," said Voeller.

"There are aspects of our game which have to be worked on but I want to congratulate the players for fighting and giving it all they had," ended Voeller.

For more news on World Cup qualifiers turn to page 30



Austrian match to be replayed after controversial goal scored

An Austrian championship league match between Bregenz and Austria Vienna played recently was declared void last week because of a controversial goal.

Austria Vienna officials agreed the match should be replayed at a later date after Bregenz officials issued an official complaint about a goal by Austria Vienna striker Christian Mayrleb. Austria Vienna won the match 4-1.

The controversial incident happened in the 60th minute when the score was 1-1 after a Bregenz player had kicked



the ball out of play so that his team mate Jiri Rosicky could be treated for an injury.

An Austria Vienna player had wanted

to give the ball back to Bregenz but Austrian international Mayrleb stunned his rivals and team mates by instead intercepting it and scoring.

A new date for the match is yet to be decided. It is rare for a match to be replayed in such circumstances but in 1999 an English F.A. Cup match between Arsenal and Sheffield United was also replayed for the same reason.

World governing body FIFA nevertheless decided to hold an emergency meeting on the English case before giving the go-ahead for the replay.

Angola appoint second coach in a week

Angola have named Miguel Calado as national team coach after Oliveira Goncalves stood down just a week after his appointment, officials said last week.

Goncalves quit, saying he was unable to juggle the job with his two other posts — coach of first division Inter Luanda and the country's under-20 team.

Goncalves took over from former Portuguese international Carlos Alinho, who stood down earlier this month after a series of disappointing results.

Angola-born Calado, coach of former champions Primeiro Agosto, will be assisted by under-17 coach Jose Kilamba and will take charge in an African Nations Cup qualifier against

Burundi in Bujumbura.

He has called up only five of the country's considerable contingent of Portuguese-based players for the match — Bodunha (Salgueiros), Lito (Belenenses), Mantorras (Alverca), Mendonca (Varzim) and Quinzinho (Desportivo Aves).

Real make renewed attempt to bring back Valdano

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez appears close to agreeing to a deal to bring in former coach Jorge Valdano as the club's new sporting director.

Valdano, who turned down a similar offer from ex-president Lorenzo Sanz last season, met the new boss late last week in a Madrid hotel to discuss the position.

While Spanish sports newspapers

reported that Valdano would take up the post, the Argentine coach limited himself to saying that negotiations in progress.

"We're continuing to define the Real Madrid that we want," Valdano said when he left the meeting.

Valdano coached Real Madrid from 1994 to 1996, winning the league title in 1995 before being sacked by Sanz.



Jorge Valdano: Wanted.

Bosnich Attacks Ferguson

Goalkeeper Mark Bosnich, languishing in the Manchester United reserves, has attacked manager Alex Ferguson saying the two were waging their own personal "cold war".

The Australian said: "I'm going to start standing up for myself. I feel I've been humiliated and undermined from the day I walked back into United."

Bosnich, who recently refused a loan move to Scottish club Celtic, said he had told Ferguson before he signed for the English champions from Aston Villa last year that other clubs, like Liverpool and Juventus, were also interested in him.

"I kept giving him chances to get out. I was honest with him — then within four games he signs another keeper. That was another kick in the teeth," he said.

However, he was determined to remain at the club, saying: "I'd rather die on my feet than live on my knees. That's why I'll never throw the towel in at this club."

"If Alex Ferguson doesn't like me — for whatever reason — that's up to him...I suppose you could say it's a 'cold war' between us really."

Bosnich joined United hoping to become the long-term replacement for former goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel.

But he has never established himself as the regular number one.

First Ferguson bought Massimo Taibi and, when the Italian failed to make the grade, the manager snapped up French World Cup goalkeeper Fabien Barthez during the close season from Monaco.

The 28-year-old Bosnich is also currently ranked behind Dutchman Raimond Van der Gouw at the club.



Mark Bosnich: "Cold War".

FIFA World Rankings

(Valid until September 6)

1	Brazil	68=	Kuwait	136	Lesotho
2	France	70=	Bolivia	138	Luxembourg
3	Argentina	70=	Lithuania	139	Tanzania
4	Czech Republic	72	Zimbabwe	140=	Liechtenstein
5	Spain	73	China PR	140=	Rwanda
6	Italy	74	Guinea	142	Ethiopia
7	Portugal	75=	Burkina Faso	143=	Bangladesh
8	Netherlands	75=	Cuba	143=	Benin
9	Norway	77	Algeria	145	St Kitts & Nevis
10	Yugoslavia	77=	Namibia	146	Burundi
11	Germany	79	Estonia	147	Korea DPR
12	Romania	80	Latvia	148	Antigua & Barbuda
13	England	81	Senegal	149	Bermuda
14	Mexico	82	Bosnia-Herzegovina	150	Gambia
15	Croatia	83	Haiti	151=	Botswana
16	Paraguay	84	FYR Macedonia	151=	Maldives
17	Colombia	85=	El Salvador	151=	Sri Lanka
18	Denmark	85=	Mali	154	Andorra
19	Sweden	87	Iraq	155	Dominican Republic
20	South Africa	88=	Armenia	156	Cape Verde Islands
21	United States	88=	Togo	157	Mauritania
22	Chile	90=	Albania	158	Yemen
22	Scotland	90=	Gabon	159	Dominica
24	Morocco	92	Qatar	160	Cayman Islands
25	Russia	93	Congo	161	Nepal
25	Tunisia	94	Barbados	162	Chinese Taipei
27	Slovakia	95	Moldova	163	Chad
28	Belgium	96	New Zealand	164	Laos
29=	Trinidad & Tobago	97	Syria	164	Surinam
29=	Turkey	98	Northern Ireland	166	Eritrea
31=	Egypt	99	Indonesia	167	San Marino
31=	Greece	100	Liberia	168	Vanuatu
33=	Cameroon	101	Jordan	169	Cook Islands
33=	Ukraine	102	Singapore	170	British Virgin Is.
35=	Israel	103	Wales	171	Palestine
35=	Uruguay	104	Vietnam SR	172	Kyrgyzstan
37	Korea Republic	105=	Mozambique	173	Netherlands Antilles
38=	Iran	105=	Uganda	174	Samoa
38=	Ireland Republic	107	Oman	175	Guinea-Bissau
38=	Zambia	108	Azerbaijan	176	Niger
41	Slovenia	109	Kenya	177	Central African Rep.
42=	Austria	110=	Belarus	178	Macao
42=	Peru	110=	Lebanon	179	Sao Tome e Principe
44	Poland	112	Malaysia	180	Cambodia
45	Cote d'Ivoire	113	Venezuela	181	Bahamas
46	Jamaica	114	Malawi	182	Philippines
47	Angola	115	India	183	Tonga
48	Japan	116	Mauritius	184	Guyana
49	Honduras	117	Kazakhstan	185	Aruba
50	Ghana	118	Malta	186	Belize
51	Iceland	119	Faroe Islands	187	Equatorial Guinea
52	Bulgaria	120	Turkmenistan	188=	Pakistan
53	Hungary	121	Madagascar	188=	Seychelles
54	Finland	122	Panama	190	Nicaragua
55	Nigeria	123	St Vincent/Gr	191	Papua New Guinea
56	Canada	124	Libya	192	Djibouti
57	Saudi Arabia	125	Hong Kong	193	Brunei Darussalam
58=	Thailand	126	Sudan	194	Puerto Rico
58=	UAE	127	Tahiti	195	Somalia
60	Guatemala	128	St Lucia	196	US Virgin Islands
61	Costa Rica	129	Bahrain	197	Mongolia
62	Switzerland	130	Solomon Islands	198	Anguilla
63	Cyprus	131	Sierra Leone	199	Turks and Caicos Is.
64	Uzbekistan	132	Myanmar	200	Bhutan
65	Ecuador	133	Swaziland	201	Guam
66	AUSTRALIA	134	Tajikistan	202	Montserrat
67	Congo DR	135	Fiji	203	American Samoa
68=	Georgia	136	Grenada		

Note: Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table.

West Ham charged with referee harassment



Paolo Di Canio: Charged.

Soccer chiefs have charged West Ham United with harassing the referee after their Premier League clash with Leicester recently.

Four West Ham players have also been charged by the Football Association (FA) with improper conduct — Italian Paolo di Canio, Rio Ferdinand, Croat Davor Suker and Michael Carrick, the BBC said.

FA officials were not immediately available to confirm the report.

Under new rules, West Ham, who lost the game 1-0 and had Igor Stimac sent off, could face a tough fine if found guilty of the charges.



Harry Redknapp: West Ham Boss.

LYON CLINCH EDMILSON DEAL

Olympique Lyon have completed the signing of Brazilian central defender Edmilson from Sao Paulo, the French First Division club said.

Edmilson met Lyon officials for several hours last week and was later presented to the media after agreeing to a five-year deal.

Edmilson nearly joined Premier League side Arsenal earlier in the year but the deal fell through.

A news conference to announce the deal was twice pushed back as details of the transfer package were negotiated.

Lyon had been anxious to sign the 24-year-old player before the Champions League transfer deadline. The transfer fee was \$17.2 million, Lyon club president Jean-Michel Aulas said.

Edmilson was watched in Brazil by Lyon technical director Bernard Lacombe

before the club went ahead with the deal.

Lyon had previously been linked with Frederic Dehu of Barcelona, who earlier joined Paris St Germain, and Frank Leboeuf of Chelsea in their search for a central defender.

They needed reinforcements after winning only one of their five league games to date.

Belgian inventor designs electronic offside machine

Disputed offside decisions will be a thing of the past if Belgian inventor Antoon Soetens has his way.

Soetens said he was the first person to invent an electronic device that could rule with 100 percent accuracy whether a player was offside.

The device passed its first test with flying colours, performing without a hitch during the local derby between amateur sides FC Escanaffles and FC Molenbaix.

"Whether you're testing it on Ronaldo or your local village side, it makes no difference," Soetens said.

Soetens said he planned to write to world soccer's governing body FIFA to ask them to give his device their blessing, having already presented it to the referees' committee of the Belgian football association.

FIFA must give the green light before any new equipment can be used in football.

"We tested it. It worked extremely well," Soetens said. "If FIFA gives me the go-ahead, the device can be ready to go by the start of 2001. I've applied for a patent and I have a company in Belgium ready to make it."

"This machine could be the solution to the whole problem. It has no disadvantages at all."

Soetens says the beauty of his machine

is its simplicity.

An electronic emitter sends a signal to a central receiver every time a pass is made to an attacking player. A second emitter sends a separate signal whenever a player strays into an offside position.

If the receiver gets a message from the second emitter before the first, the pass was made to an offside player and another device in the touch judge's hand vibrates. It is then up to the touch judge to decide whether to raise his flag.

A spokesman for the Belgian referees' association said the committee would meet to discuss the merits of the invention and whether to test it further in the near future.

Soetens said the committee had raised a number of technical questions about his invention, but he was confident these were not insurmountable.

A FIFA spokesman said the introduction of such a machine would be problematic.

FIFA's overriding principle is that the game should be refereed in the same way all over the world and at all levels of the game, and electronic devices could be prohibitively expensive, he said.

"The human side is part of football, and in the same way as strikers miss shots and keepers miss crosses, referees also make mistakes," the spokesman said.

Greeks to get record bonus if they reach World Cup

Greek national players will get record bonuses if they qualify for the World Cup finals.

A Ministry of Sports official said the squad would divide up to 700 million drachmas (\$1.85 million) between them — a huge amount for Greece — if they advance from

the qualifying round to the 2002 finals.

Greece missed both the last World Cup and the European championship.

The last time Greece made the finals, in 1994, the bonus was about a third of what is now being offered.

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Ronald De Boer set for move to Rangers

Barcelona's Dutch midfielder Ronald de Boer has agreed personal terms on a four-year contract with Rangers.

The transfer could not be finalised before De Boer flew to the Netherlands to join the Dutch squad for training ahead of a World Cup qualifier against Ireland.

The 30-year-old appeared in a Rangers shirt on the Ibrox pitch for the benefit of photographers but officials said the transfer cannot be finalised until a final piece of documentation from the Spanish F.A. arrives.

De Boer said on the Web site www.icons.com there remained "a few issues to be sorted out between the clubs but I fully expect to become a Rangers player".

Media reports in the Netherlands and Scotland put a figure of between five and six million

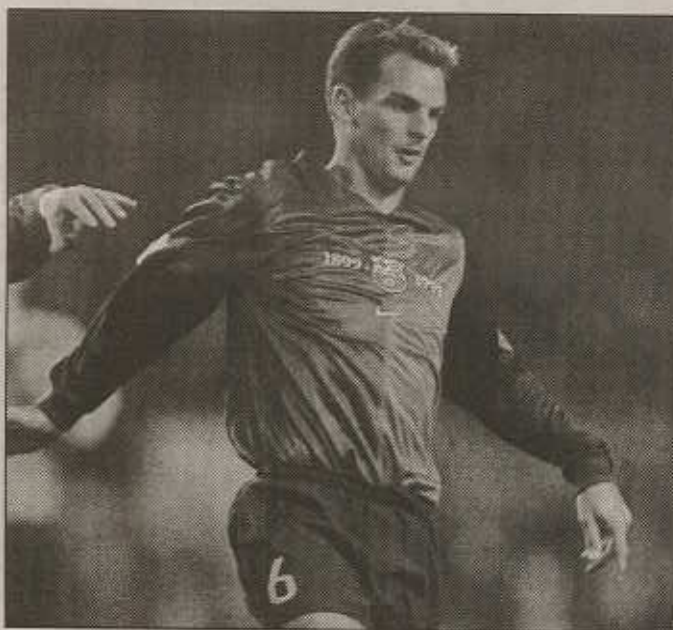
pounds on the transfer deal.

The player has become frustrated at his lack of first team opportunities under new Barcelona coach Llorenç Serra Ferrer after joining the Spanish club from Ajax with his twin brother Frank in January 1999.

De Boer arrived in Glasgow for a medical from Hoenderloo in the Netherlands where he had been with the Dutch national squad.

The Dutch Football Association said he had been given permission by Louis van Gaal, the national coach and former Barcelona boss who took him to Spain, to leave the camp to sort out his club future.

"Ronald de Boer has left the training camp with the permission of coach Louis van Gaal. De Boer wishes to leave Barcelona and plans to sort out his transfer to another club today," the FA said.



Ronald De Boer: Off to Scotland.

GUARDIOLA FACES SURGERY ON INJURED ANKLE

Barcelona captain Pep Guardiola will undergo surgery on an injured left ankle after being ruled out of Spain's World Cup qualifier against Bosnia.

Barcelona said the player, who suffered ligament damage during a training session with the Spanish squad late last week, would be out for around 10 weeks with the injury.

Spanish coach Jose Antonio Camacho immediately called up striker Dani, Guardiola's Barcelona team mate, for the match.

Guardiola returned to Barcelona and decided to

have surgery after taking advice from his doctor Ramon Cugat.

"I just want to get this problem solved," said Guardiola, who suffered a similar injury last season.

Guardiola is also likely to miss Spain's World Cup qualifiers against Israel on October 7 and Austria four days later. He will probably miss most, if not all, of the first phase of the Champions League as well.

"The coach will find a solution," said Guardiola when pressed on his importance at club and international level.

"Barcelona is a club — it's

not just me."

But club coach Llorenç Serra Ferrer said: "We all know that Guardiola is irreplaceable. I don't want to think the worst but this injury could need a long period of recuperation."

Guardiola's absence in the national squad could see Gaizka Mendietxa move from the wing to the centre of midfield, with Dani playing on the right.

"It is a blow for us," Camacho said. "He's an important player but that's it. There are other players who can take his place."



Pep Guardiola: Surgery beckons.



Jose Luis Chilavert

Chilavert scores one goal, and sets up another

Velez Sarsfield goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert set up his team's first goal and scored their second in a 3-1 win over Universidad de Chile.

Velez went ahead in the 12th minute of the Copa Mercosur game last week when Rolando Zarate flicked in a free kick taken by the

Paraguayan captain. Chilavert himself scored the second, banging in a penalty in the 62nd minute.

Chilavert is a regular taker of free kicks and penalties for both club and country. He scored a hat-trick for Velez in an Argentina championship game last year.

DESCHAMPS RETIRES

France's World Cup-winning captain Didier Deschamps is to quit international football and played his final match in a French jersey against England over the weekend.

Deschamps said that he has no doubts he has made the right decision.

"I know in my heart that the moment has arrived to stop playing and captaining the French team," Deschamps said.

"I've thought a lot about it and it hasn't been easy. There are reasons to continue. One part of me says I should go on, but it has not convinced me." Deschamps has won a record 102 caps for France.

TV GUIDE

All times are Australian Eastern Standard Summer Time



TUESDAY SEPT 5
Futbol Mundial
SBS TV
4pm - 4.30pm

WEDNESDAY SEPT 6
English Premier League
Chelsea vs Arsenal (LIVE)
Fox Sports
5am - 8.30am
(Thursday Morning)

THURSDAY SEPT 7
English Premier League
Chelsea vs Arsenal
(Replay)
Fox Sports
11pm - 1am



FRIDAY SEPT 8
English Premier League
Chelsea vs Arsenal
(Replay)
Fox Sports 2
4pm - 6pm

Fox Sports Gold
Euro 2000 Final
Italy vs France
Fox Sports
6pm - 7pm

Italian Soccer
Italian Super Cup Final
Lazio vs Inter (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
5.30am - 8am
(Saturday Morning)



SATURDAY SEPT 9
GOL ESPN
Football Extra
Optus (ESPN)
10am - 10.30am

FIFA TV
ABC TV
1.30pm - 2pm

World Soccer
SBS TV
4.30pm - 5.30pm

English Premier League
Highlights
SBS TV (Replay)
5.30pm - 6.30pm

English Premier League
Review
Fox Sports 2
5pm - 5.30pm

English Premier League
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Fox Sports
12.55am - 3am

Scottish Premier League
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Optus (ESPN)
12.55am - 3am

SUNDAY SEPT 10
English Premier League
Replay of overnight match
Fox Sports 2
2pm - 4pm

English Premier League
Classic matches of the
90's
Fox Sports 2
12am - 1am
(Monday Morning)

English Premier League
Derby vs Charlton (LIVE)
Fox Sports 2
1am - 4.30am
(Monday Morning)

MONDAY SEPT 11
English Premier League
Derby vs Charlton (Replay)
Fox Sports
1pm - 3pm



English Premier League
Highlights
Fox Sports 2
5pm - 6pm

English Premier League
Highlights
SBS TV
7.30pm - 8.30pm

English Premier League
Derby vs Charlton (Replay)
Fox Sports
8.30pm - 10.30pm

English Premier League
Tottenham vs West Ham
(LIVE)
Fox Sports
5am - 8.30am
(Tuesday Morning)





2002 WORLD CUP: The Qualifiers



HUNGARY HOLD ITALIANS AT BAY

HUNGARY	2
ITALY	2

GROUP EIGHT

Euro 2000 finalists Italy were held to a 2-2 draw by Hungary in a pulsating European group eight World Cup qualifier.

Juventus striker Filippo Inzaghi and Energie Cottbus forward Ferenc Horvath scored two apiece as Hungary earned a well-deserved point after twice being a goal down.

Italy, under new coach Giovanni Trapattoni for their first match since Euro 2000, took a 26th-minute lead when Inzaghi rounded goalkeeper Gabor Kiraly and slotted home.

Horvath levelled for Hungary from 10 metres out just three minutes later.

Inzaghi, dubbed "SuperPippo" by his fans, restored Italy's lead with a 35th-minute header despite suspicions of off-side.

But just as Italy looked set for victory in front of a crowd of 57,000, Horvath scrambled the ball past goalkeeper Francesco Toldo in the 78th minute.

Trapattoni, appointed after Dino Zoff resigned following Italy's defeat to France in the Euro 2000 final, said: "I'm not disappointed, although we should have scored more goals."

"The team created lots of good chances but this time they missed. The



Italy's Gianluca Zambrotta holds off Hungary's Gabor Halmi in their Group eight qualifier in Budapest. The match ended 2-2.

Hungarians played well, I warn everybody not to underestimate them."

Hungary coach Bertalan Bicskei said: "The team performed well against a world-class opponent. I wish that once we could win this type of game in the near future."

The match also saw Italy skipper Paolo Maldini equal Zoff's record of

112 appearances for his country.

The 32-year-old AC Milan defender made his international debut in a friendly against Yugoslavia on March 31, 1988, and has been a regular at left back ever since.

Zoff was Italy's goalkeeper from 1968 to 1983, winning the World Cup in Spain in 1982.

RUSSIA SNEAK PAST SWISS

SWITZERLAND	0
RUSSIA	1

GROUP ONE

A second-half goal from Vladimir Beschastnykh gave Russia a 1-0 away win over mis-firing Switzerland in their World Cup European Group One qualifier.

Beschastnykh spoiled Enzo Trossero's debut as Swiss coach when he outjumped defender Stephane Henchoz and neatly headed home Alexander Mostovoi's pinpoint chip

in the 74th minute.

The goal came against the flow of play as the Swiss dominated for long periods, particularly in the opening half when they generated half-a-dozen scoring chances.

But with first-choice strikers Stephane Chapuisat, Kubilay Tuerkylmaz and David Sesa all out injured, the Swiss attack lacked a clinical finisher.

"I am very disappointed with the result but there's no one to blame, the players gave their all," said Trossero. "We created a lot of opportunities but soccer is like that."



Russia's Vladimir Beschastnykh celebrates his winner against Switzerland.

QUALIFYING ROUND UP

ISRAEL	2
LIECHTENSTEIN	0

GROUP SEVEN

Israel scored after only 16 seconds over the weekend in a lacklustre 2-0 victory over Liechtenstein in their World Cup European group seven qualifier.

With striker Alon Mizrahi shooting them into such an early lead, the 10,000-strong crowd were expecting a goal feast.

Instead, Israel finished with little to show for their domination of the match, with substitute Pini Balili adding their second from close range in only the 79th minute.

The Tel Aviv fans booed their team, prompting an angry response after the match from Israel captain Tal Banin.

MACEDONIA	0
SLOVAKIA	2

GROUP FOUR

An early own goal set up a straightforward 2-0 victory for Slovakia in their World Cup European group four qualifier against Macedonia over the weekend.

Visiting defender Goran Stavrevski headed a bouncing shot by Igor Balis into his own net in the third minute.

The pressure from Slovakia nearly produced another in the 24th minute, but Vladimir Leitner's shot rebounded off a Macedonia post.

Slovakia's substitute midfielder Igor Demo doubled their lead with a shot from outside the penalty area in the 74th minute.

Macedonia threatened late in the game, but their best chance, which fell to striker Gjorgji Hristov three minutes from time, was saved by Slovakia goalkeeper Miroslav Konig.

EUROPEAN WORLD CUP STANDINGS

GROUP ONE

Switzerland 0 Russia 1
(Vladimir Beschastnykh 74)

Luxembourg 0 Yugoslavia 2
(Savo Milosevic 4, Slavisa Jokanovic 26)

Faroe Islands 2 (Uni Arge 87, Ossur Hansen 90) Slovenia 2 (Saso Udovic 25, Milan Osterc 85)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Russia	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Faroe Islands	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Slovenia	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Switzerland	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Luxembourg	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

GROUP TWO

Andorra 2 (Emiliano Gonzalez 45, Ildefonso Lima 51)
Cyprus 3 (Michael Constantinou 25pen, 90, Marios Agathokleous 77).

Netherlands 2 (Jeffrey Talan 71, Giovanni van Bronckhorst 84)
Ireland 2 (Robbie Keane 21, Jason McAteer 65)

Estonia 1 (Andres Oper 84)
Portugal 3 (Manuel Rui Costa 14, Luis Figo 49, Ricardo Pinto 57)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Cyprus	1	1	0	0	3	2	3

Estonia	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Ireland	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Netherlands	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Andorra	2	0	0	2	2	4	0

GROUP THREE

Northern Ireland 1 (Phil Gray 70) Malta 0

Bulgaria 0 Czech Republic 1
(Karel Poborsky 73pen).

Iceland 1 (Eyjolfur Sverrisson 12)
Denmark 2 (Jon Dahl Tomasson 26, Morten Bisgaard 49)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Czech Rep	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Nth Ireland	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Iceland	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Bulgaria	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Malta	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

GROUP FOUR

Azerbaijan 0 Sweden 1 (Anders Svensson 10)

Turkey 2 (Okan Buruk 45, Emre Belozoglu 70) Moldova 0

Slovakia 2 (Goran Lazarevski 30g, Igor Demo 74) Macedonia 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovakia	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Turkey	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Sweden	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Azerbaijan	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Macedonia	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Moldova	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

GROUP FIVE

Belarus 2 (Alexander Khatskevich 39, Valentin Belkevich 56) Wales 1 (Gary Speed 90)

Ukraine 1 (Andriy Shevchenko 13) Poland 3 (Emmanuel Olisadebe 3, 33, Radoslaw Kaluzny 57)

Norway 0 Armenia 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Belarus	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Armenia	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Norway	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Wales	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Ukraine	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

GROUP SIX

Latvia 0 Scotland 1 (Neil McCann 89)

Belgium 0 Croatia 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Belgium	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Croatia	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
San Marino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latvia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

GROUP SEVEN

Bosnia 1 (Elvir Baljic 41) Spain 2 (Gerard 39, Joseba Etxeberria 72)

Israel 2 (Alon Mizrahi 1, Pini Balili 79) Liechtenstein 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Israel	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Spain	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Austria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bosnia	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Liechtenstein	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

GROUP EIGHT

Romania 1 (Ionel Ganea 89) Lithuania 0

Hungary 2 (Ferenc Horvath 29, 78) Italy 2 (Filippo Inzaghi 26, 35)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Hungary	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Italy	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Georgia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

GROUP NINE

Finland 2 (Jari Litmanen 45, Aki Riihilahti 67) Albania 1 (Edvin Murati 63)

Germany 2 (Sebastian Deisler 17, Marinos Ouzounidis 75og) Greece 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Finland	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
England	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albania	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Greece	1	0	0	1	0	2	0



2002 WORLD CUP: The Qualifiers



Yugoslav's head their way to victory

LUXEMBOURG	0
YUGOSLAVIA	2

GROUP ONE

Yugoslavia opened their World Cup qualifying campaign with a comfortable 2-0 victory over European group one part-timers Luxembourg over the weekend.

Two powerful headers, by Parma's Savo Milosevic after four minutes and Deportivo La Coruna midfielder Slavisa Jokanovic on 26 minutes, were enough for the Euro 2000 quarter-finalists.

Luxembourg, 138th in FIFA's world rankings, never looked likely to trouble the visitors, who were under new coach Ilija Petkovic.



Savo Milosevic:
Scored his sides first.

The hosts did have a couple of bright moments, notably when playmaker Luc Holtz hit the bar with a fierce hooked shot midway through the first half.

But most of the action was just outside the Luxembourg area, where the home defenders worked tirelessly to keep the Yugoslav attack at bay.

Milosevic wasted two good chances in the second half and Luxembourg goalkeeper Alija Besic was constantly in the thick of the action.

PORTUGAL CRUISE TO FIRST UP WIN

ESTONIA	1
PORTUGAL	3

GROUP TWO

Portugal cruised to a 3-1 win over Estonia in their European group two World Cup qualifier over the weekend, showing the class that took them to the Euro 2000 semifinals.

Portugal struck in the 14th minute when Manuel Rui Costa curled a shot inside diving Mart Poom's left-hand post from about 18 metres.

Jorge Almeida found the net in the 33rd minute but the effort was dis-

allowed for a foul.

Luis Figo made it 2-0 in the 49th minute with a set-piece free-kick, curling the ball around Estonia's wall and beyond Poom's outstretched hand into the top corner.

Figo, the world's most expensive footballer after his \$96 million move from Barcelona to Real Madrid, also set up Portugal's third goal in the 57th minute.

The midfielder floated the ball into the box for Ricardo Pinto to score with a close-range header.

Andres Oper bagged Estonia's consolation goal in the 84th minute after a corner.



Luis Figo: Scored from a free kick against Estonia.

QUALIFYING ROUND UP

ROMANIA	1
LITHUANIA	0

GROUP EIGHT

Substitute Ionel Ganea saved Romania's blushes when he scored an 89th-minute winner to beat Lithuania 1-0 in a European group eight World Cup qualifier.

Ganea, who came on in the 67th minute, headed home from eight metres after Salamanca's Catalin Munteanu sent over a perfect ball from the left flank.

It was Ganea's ninth goal in 17 internationals and a repeat of his feat at Euro 2000 when he came on to score Romania's 89th-minute winner against England from the penalty spot in Group A.

SLOVENIA	2
FAROE ISLANDS	2

GROUP ONE

Faroe Islands scored twice in the dying minutes to snatch a surprise 2-2 draw against Euro 2000 finalists Slovenia in a World Cup European group one qualifier.

Midfielder Uni Arge and defender Ossur Hansen scored in the last three minutes of the match, stunning their guests who had seemed headed for a comfortable win.

His side had gone 2-0 up just five minutes before the end, Milan Osterc running through for an easy solo goal with Saso Udovic, who was replaced by Osterc in the 71st minute, opened the scoring for Slovenia in the 25th minute.

TURKEY	2
MOLDOVA	0

GROUP FOUR

Turkey beat Moldova 2-0 to set their World Cup European group four qualifying campaign off to a successful but uninspired start.

Apart from a delightful individual goal by youngster Emre Belozoglu in the 70th minute, the Turks, playing their first competitive match under new coach Senol Gunes, looked far from comfortable with his wider game of long balls and crosses.

Midfielder Okan Buruk got the Turks' other goal, a glancing header off a free-kick from defender Ogun Temizkanoglu.

CZECH REPUBLIC	1
BULGARIA	0

GROUP THREE

A late penalty by Karel Poborsky gave the Czech Republic a 1-0 victory over Bulgaria in their World Cup European group three qualifier.

Poborsky scored 17 minutes from time after he was hacked down by Georgi Markov in the box.

POLES SHOCK UKRAINE

UKRAINE	1
POLAND	3

GROUP FIVE

Emmanuel Olisadebe scored a pair of first-half goals to lead Poland to a shock 3-1 away win over Ukraine in their World Cup European group five qualifier.

The Nigerian-born striker, who also scored on his debut for his adoptive country in last month's

friendly against Romania, headed Poland into the lead in the third minute, then scored again in the 33rd to break a 1-1 deadlock.

Ironically, Olisadebe was added to the starting line-up at the last minute after Polish doctors pronounced him healthy from a week-long leg injury.

AC Milan striker Andriy Shevchenko briefly brought Ukraine into the match when he fired from a sharp angle past goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek in the 13th minute.



Radoslaw Kaluzny: Scores Poland's third in a 3-1 win over Ukraine.

SOUTH AMERICA QUALIFYING

PERU	1
ARGENTINA	2

Argentina's march to the 2002 World Cup finals continued over the weekend with a resolute 2-1 victory over Peru in Lima.

The South American group leaders overcame their recent defeat against Brazil, and held out against Peru's last-gasp efforts to grab an equaliser.

This was not a brilliant performance, but Argentina always possessed the quality that would make the difference between the two sides.

Hernan Crespo continued to stake his claim to be an able replacement for the injured Gabriel Batistuta, striking a powerful right-footed goal on 27 minutes.

Sebastian Veron increased the lead on 38 minutes, with an imperious free kick which shaved the outstretched heads lined up along Peru's defensive wall.

Peru's goal came on 69 minutes, when Bonano failed to hold Gustavo Tempone's free kick, and Walter Samuel's attempted clearance sent the ball into his own goal.

The pace of the game rose in the final stages, but it was Argentina, not Peru, making the chances.

Veron was unlucky not to add a third goal to the tally, when he rattled the bar in the final minute.



Juan Veron: Sealed victory for Argentina.

BRAZIL	5
BOLIVIA	0

Romario scored a hat-trick in a triumphant international return as Brazil beat Bolivia 5-0 to take some of the pressure off beleaguered coach Wanderley Luxemburgo.

Luxemburgo yielded to fan pressure after a bleak series of results and was amply rewarded at the Maracana stadium for recalling the 34-year-old striker, whose last full international had been in a friendly against Argentina in April 1998.

With sheets of rain falling as the game began, Brazil's chances of producing a much-needed goal glut initially looked slim.

However, there was an air of greater confidence about the team and when Vampeta was sent clear only to be upended by Bolivian goalkeeper Mauricio Soria, the home side were awarded a penalty which was duly converted by Romario after only 12 minutes.

The Maracana crowd, who had mixed jeers with cheers, were finally won over when Rivaldo extended Brazil's lead shortly after the interval, meeting a Cafu cross after a well-worked move which also involved Romario.

Bolivia offered little response and Romario, revelling on his return to his favoured Maracana hunting-ground, struck again in the 77th and 81st minutes, both goals slotted coolly home from Vampeta passes before Defender Marco Sandy, made it 5-0 in the 89th minute.



Romario: Brazil's Hat-trick hero.

RESULTS

Peru 1 (Walter Samuel (OG) 69) Argentina 2 (Hernan Crespo 27, Juan Sebastian Veron 38).

Brazil 5 (Romario 12, 77, 81, Rivaldo 47, Marques 89) Bolivia 0

Uruguay 4 (Federico Magallanes 15, Dario Silva 37, Nicolas Olivera 55, Gabriel Cedres 57) Ecuador 0

Chile 0 Colombia 1 (Jairo Castillo, 66)

Paraguay 3 (Gonzalez 30, Cardozo 35, Paredes 44) Venezuela 0

STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Argentina	8	6	1	1	18	7	19
2. Colombia	8	4	3	1	8	4	15
3. Uruguay	8	4	2	2	11	5	14
4. Brazil	8	4	2	2	14	9	14
5. Paraguay	8	4	2	2	11	8	14
6. Chile	8	3	1	4	11	10	10
7. Ecuador	8	3	1	3	9	10	10
8. Peru	8	2	2	4	6	7	8
9. Bolivia	8	1	2	5	4	14	5
10. Venezuela	8	1	0	7	5	20	3

TOP SCORERS

5- Rivaldo (Brazil).
4- Ivan Zamorano (Chile), Hernan Crespo (Argentina).
3- Juan Sebastian Veron, Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina), Romario (Brazil), Jairo Castillo (Colombia), Agustin Delgado (Ecuador), Dario Silva, Nicolas Olivera (Uruguay).

Didier Deschamps

(FRANCE)



AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH
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